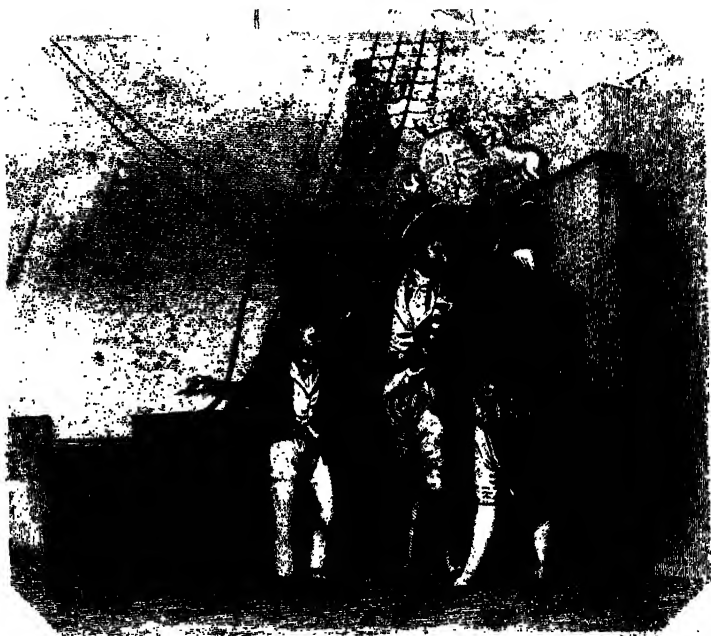




Engraved by J. Oudry

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, WILLIAM-HENRY THE FOURTH

THE
LIFE AND REIGN
of
WILLIAM THE FOURTH



*"Well, does Great Britain merit the empire of the Sea, when the
highest stations in her Navy, are filled by Princes of the blood?"*

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THE
LIFE AND REIGN
OF
WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

BY
THE REV. G. N. WRIGHT, M.A.

IN TWO VOLUMES. •

VOL. I.

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INTRODUCTION.

AT the period of his birth, WILLIAM THE FOURTH had but a remote prospect of succeeding to that proud inheritance, the crown of his royal ancestors, which he subsequently wore for the happiness of his people. But, from this precise circumstance he enjoyed the advantage of having the foibles of his boyhood, the indiscretions that were characteristic of his robust youth, less known, less published, and therefore less misunderstood, than those of his illustrious predecessor.

His infancy was watched with the anxious solicitude of a virtuous mother; his education directed and conducted by men eminent alike for piety and learning; and his transit through his *Ephebia*, though not hitherto recorded in the annals of his country, was accomplished in a manner peculiarly appropriate to the scion of an Island-king, that is, within the “wooden walls” of his country.

His early biography is inseparably associated with the naval annals of Great Britain, the youthful prince having shared in some of the boldest exploits, and most brilliant victories, won by British courage and seamanship, during the eventful reign of his royal Father. The fortitude, skill, heroism, and devotedness of British seamen, he had frequently witnessed; and in speaking of the dangers undergone by his countrymen in their struggles for the

empire of the ocean, he might have adopted the beautiful language of Troy's wandering prince :—

“ Quorum pars magna fui
quæque ipse miserrima vidi.”

Passing from the rank of a disciplined, brave, and accomplished sailor, the Prince entered upon a life of privacy and seclusion, during which period few of his actions transpired beyond the sphere of his personal acquaintance, or were known without the limits of his peaceful dwelling. In this enviable position, he exhibited the same gentleness of manner, benevolence of disposition, easiness of approach, and genuine philanthropy, which marked the character of the youthful sailor, the honoured prince, and the humane senator.

Of the sanguinary measures adopted by the policy of George the Third's reign, the dismemberment of the British empire by the amputation of America, Prince William was wholly guiltless. To those suggestions in which originated our national debt, of which numeration is now almost inadequate to convey a distinct notion, he was no party. He was of too tender an age to have recommended those aggressions in which he afterwards personally assisted, for maintaining the honour of his country, and acquiring those accessions of territory, which retaliation, or national self-defence, rendered absolutely necessary for the well-being of the state. Unconscious of his approaching destiny, the future King beheld one monarch led to the scaffold of death, and the rich diadems fall from the brows of others. He heard the children of enthusiasm exclaim, “The throne we honour is the people's choice;” he felt that “the laws he revered were his brave father's legacy.” Still he remained, like the proud and stately ship that “walks the waters like

a thing of life," unmoved from those christian, charitable, impartial principles, that during a long, and in some respect, active life, were never deflected from the line of rectitude, except by an occasional influx of the noblest feelings; unshaken by the waves of popular commotion, unawed by the fates of those that fell around him, he possessed and displayed the courage of a British sailor, which is also acknowledged to be the inheritance of every British prince.

The greatest political struggle that has been consummated since 1688, occurred in the reign of William the Fourth. It appears to have had its birth, to have acquired strength, and reached maturity, simultaneously with the advancement of knowledge. The highest talents, the most remarkable men, the most wealthy individuals, the most influential persons of the times, all engaged in the great contest for or against "Reform." The King held, between the contending parties, the balance of justice, not of power, and left the Greek and Trojan indiscriminately to his fate. William the Fourth deserved well of his country if ever monarch did; he interposed no courtly or princely jealousies between the great body of his subjects, and the widest extension of popular right or privilege; he exercised power meekly and beneficently; he watched with satisfaction the spread and growth of constitutional freedom; he trampled on no man, persecuted no man; deliberately or consciously he offended no man; nor did the late King create one personal enemy in the world, from the hour he ascended the throne of England to the hour of his death.

The review here taken of the earlier years of William IV., necessarily includes a very important notice of the British Navy. The period he passed in retire-

ment; "the middle ages of his biography," will be found less full of incident, presenting, as it does, fewer prominent angles for the reflection of historic light; but the monarch's latter years embrace events of the deepest interest, an interest not exceeded by the perusal of any other equal portion of parliamentary history, from the earliest authentic records of its proceedings to the close of William's peaceful reign.

The graver passages of these historic recollections are occasionally relieved by the introduction of personal anecdote,—of correspondence hitherto unpublished, and, by the relation of many private incidents, which a right-minded chronicler of his Sovereign's Life and Reign feels to be most appropriately detailed when mentioned last.

Upon this, the latest volume of the history of our country, considerable care and cost have been expended by the publishers. Besides a faithful Likeness, engraved in the best possible manner, of the illustrious subject of these Memoirs, valuable Portraits are added of the eminent Naval Heroes with whom the youthful Prince was associated in the profession of arms, and from whom he learned "to obey and to command." The pictorial interest of the work is still further augmented by the introduction of several highly finished Engravings of our most brilliant Naval Victories, from originals by Louthembourg and Arnald, now preserved in the Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital.

MEMOIRS

OF

WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

CHAPTER I.

FROM 1765 TO 1779

THE waves that rocked the political world, and shook many of the greatest kingdoms on earth to their centre, had just been succeeded by a calm, that diffused its serenity to the furthest extent of civilization. Great Britain and her numerous dependencies now exhibited to mankind a grand political association, bound by the strongest ties of duty and affection, actuated by one common interest, and governed by a youthful monarch, who ascended the throne under circumstances of more signal advantage than any in the long line of his royal ancestors had ever enjoyed. Happiness dwelt in the palaces of Britain, peace had her abode in all her colonies, and the banners of commerce fluttered in the breezes of every climate.

At this auspicious period, a prince was given to the British nation, destined to secure to his people a calm, resembling that on which his first ark of existence was launched.—On the 21st of August, 1765, between the hours of three and four in the morning, Queen Charlotte, consort of King George the Third, was happily delivered of a prince, her third child, at Buckingham-House palace, in the presence of the Princess Dowager of Wales, (her mother-in-law,) and several ladies of the court; the Lord Chancellor and other officers of state being also in attendance in an ante-chamber, to attest the birth of the royal infant. At noon, this “great event” was

announced to the public by the firing of the Tower guns, and in the evening there were splendid illuminations in different parts of the metropolis.

On the 28th of the same month, the Corporation of London waited on his Majesty at St. James's, with the following congratulatory address :—

‘Most gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty’s ever loyal and faithful subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons, of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, humbly beseech your Majesty to accept our most sincere and dutiful congratulations on the safe delivery of the Queen, and the auspicious birth of another Prince.

“The joyful event of an increase in your Majesty’s illustrious Family, will always be gratefully considered by us as a further substantial security to the civil and religious liberties of this your Majesty’s free and native country

“Every addition to your Majesty’s domestic happiness fills our hearts with the highest pleasure and satisfaction: and fully confiding that your Majesty’s royal sentiments ever coincide with the united wishes of your faithful people, we gladly embrace every opportunity of testifying our joy, and laying our congratulations at your Majesty’s feet.

“Permit us, therefore, Royal Sir, to assure your Majesty, that your faithful citizens of London, from their zealous attachment to your Royal House, and the true honour and dignity of your crown, *whenever a happy establishment of public measures shall present a favourable occasion*, will be ready to exert their utmost abilities in support of such wise counsels as apparently tend to render your Majesty’s reign happy and glorious.”

The answer of the King was as follows :—

“I thank you for this dutiful address. Your congratulations on the further increase of my family, and your assurances of zealous attachment to it, cannot but be very agreeable to me. I have nothing so much at heart as the welfare and happiness of my people; and have the greatest satisfaction in every event that may be an additional security to those civil and religious liberties, upon which the prosperity of these kingdoms depends.”

The form, style, and reasoning of this address became the subject of much criticism and animadversion from the press. To the last paragraph, “Permit us to assure your Majesty,” &c., it was objected, that the corporation told his Majesty, that unless his affairs were in a flourishing situation, he was never to expect the smallest support or assistance from the City of London. The second objection was, that the corporation also declared that, when-

ever public measures should have an *apparent* tendency to the happiness and glory of their sovereign, "they would exert themselves in support of his Majesty's counsels." Taking a retrospect through the long vista of time gone past, and comparing this address dispassionately with its multitudinous brethren, it will not appear more slovenly than some thousands of its successors. There can be no doubt of the integrity of its *meaning*.

On the 20th of September, 1765, the infant Prince was baptized in the grand council-chamber of St. James's Palace, by the learned Dr. Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury. He received the name of William Henry, from his uncle the Duke of Glo'ster, who, with Prince Henry Frederick and the Princess of Brunswick, acted as sponsors. Besides their Majesties and the Royal family, there were present very many of the nobility. Bonfires blazed before St. James's, Carlton House, and Whitehall. A liberal allowance of porter was distributed to the multitude; and in the evening the windows of the principal streets were brilliantly illuminated.

Superstitious observers of hours, days, and years may remark, that the first three children of their Majesties were born in August, a month which had proved particularly auspicious to the House of Brunswick. On the first of August, 1714, corresponding with the twelfth of the new style, the death of the last sovereign of the family of Stuart, Queen Anne, gave George the First peaceable possession of the throne. On the 11th of August, 1737, Augusta, the eldest child of Frederick, Prince of Wales, was born; on the 1st of August, her husband, Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, obtained the glorious victory of Minden over the French; in the same month were born Frederick, King of Bohemia, and his heroic consort Elizabeth, only daughter of James the

First, from whom the present royal family are descended. And, lastly, Queen Adelaide, consort of William IV. was born in the month so propitious to the royal house.

In 1765, death struck down many branches of the royal families of Europe. On the last day of October in this year, the Duke of Cumberland, who had been in a declining state of health, expired of apoplexy, at the age of 45 years. The Duke, on the day of his death, appeared to enjoy more than usual good health: he attended court, dined with Lord Albemarle, drank tea with the Princess of Brunswick at St. James's palace, and withdrew to attend a council at his own house, in Upper Grosvenor-street. Soon after his arrival, he complained of a pain in his shoulder, with a fit of shivering: being laid on a couch, he muttered, "It's all over," and expired in Lord Albemarle's arms. Sir Charles Winttingham, the king's physician, was soon in attendance; but human art was then unavailing.

The Duke of Cumberland was the youngest child of the numerous family of George II. (Louisa Queen of Denmark excepted,) and being born in England, some years after the accession of the house of Hanover, was educated in England, and boasted a genuine English heart. His personal and public virtues rendered him an object of the people's respect; and his gallantry at Culloden and Fontenoy acquired for him a memorable name in the history of his country. On the circumstance of his English birth, he appeared to reflect with much pride and gratification. When not more than eleven years old, he accompanied his father, George II. to a review: while passing along the line, one of the officers exclaimed, "What a *charming* boy!" This was indistinctly overheard by the young prince; who, mistaking the word "charming" for "German," turned

quickly about, and said, "Gentlemen, you are wrong, I am not a German boy; I'm an English boy, and I beg you will never call me so any more."

The Duke became extremely popular; and he deserved to be so, as well for his public conduct as his private virtues.

When at the head of the army in Germany, he was particularly struck with the ability and valour displayed by a sergeant belonging to his own regiment. Having often noticed the gallantry, and made inquiries into the private character of the man, his Royal Highness took occasion, on an exploit performed by him, to give him a lieutenancy. Some time afterwards, this person, so favoured, entreated his royal patron to take back the commission, and restore him to his former station. Surprised at so extraordinary a request, the Duke demanded the reason; and was told by the applicant, that he was now separated from his old companions by his elevation, and could not gain admittance into the society of his brother officers, who considered themselves as degraded by his appointment. "Oh! is that the case?" said the Prince, "let the matter rest, and I will soon find a way to give you satisfaction."

The next morning his Royal Highness went on the parade, where he was received by a circle of officers. While in conversation, he perceived the lieutenant walking by himself. On this, the Duke said, "Pray, gentlemen, what has that officer done, that he should be drummed out of your councils?" Without deigning to wait for an answer, he went up, took the lieutenant by the arm, and in that posture of familiarity walked up and down the lines, followed with all humility by the whole staff, much to their own mortification; and the amuse-

ment of the privates. When the parade was over, Lord Ligonier respectfully requested that his Royal Highness would honour the mess with his presence that day. "With all my heart," replied the Duke, "provided I bring my friend here with me." His lordship bowed and said, "I hope so." After this no one presumed to treat the Duke's friend with contempt, but, on the contrary, all seemed eager to seek his acquaintance. He rose to the rank of a general; and, with more gratitude than taste, erected the gilded equestrian statue of his patron, which stands in Cavendish-square.

Some abuses having crept into the navy, particularly in the impress service, the Duke of Cumberland resolved to search into the truth of what had been reported. Accordingly, one morning, he went with an officer of rank, and both dressed as private sailors, to Wapping; where, entering a public-house, they desired the landlady to furnish them with a private room, having heard, since they came on shore, that the press was very hot. The treacherous hostess took the money with a low courtesy, and retired; but immediately sent for a press-gang, and related the whole story—observing withal, that one of the men was so fat, he was scarcely worth taking. The gang burst into the room; and, after a well-feigned resistance, the Duke and his friend suffered themselves to be dragged on board the tender, where they were roughly interrogated, and reprimanded for daring to resist his Majesty's officers. The Duke replied, and inveighed against them in sharp terms, for using men so cruelly: upon which he and his companion were ordered below. With this, the prince refused to comply; on which the captain of the tender, exasperated at his firmness, said they should soon know who he was—

and ordered them to be stripped and flogged. The Duke exclaimed, "Strip me, if you dare!" This was not to be endured: the captain struck his Royal Highness with a cane, which was the sign for his men to strip their victim by force; but on taking off his blue jacket, they perceived the star. The tables were now turned—the Duke declared himself; and the whole party fell on their knees, imploring forgiveness. His Royal Highness ordered the captain to be secured, while he went below; where a dreadful scene of savage barbarity presented itself:—some were bleeding from the repeated lashes they had received, and others were gasping for life, from the want of air. The Duke immediately returned to town, and laid the whole case before the Admiralty, which for a season had a good effect.

The Duke was Ranger of the Great Park at Windsor, where he kept a number of labourers in constant employ; but instead of paying higher wages than others, he chose rather to give less than the neighbouring nobility and gentry, in order that no improper advantage might be taken of his example. But he sufficiently made up for this trifling deficiency, by ordering the workmen, every day, at noon, table-beer with bread and cheese; besides which, he gave them once a week a substantial dinner. This he used to call old English hospitality.

A nobleman, remarkable for his penuriousness, took the liberty one day to tell the Duke, that his Royal Highness could do very well without so many labourers, who must put him to a prodigious expense. The Duke heard him out, and then said, "To be sure, as you say, I might do without these poor people; but can they do without me?"

Scarcely had the Royal vault at Westminster closed over the remains of this patriotic prince, before it was

re-opened, to receive another branch of the Royal line, Prince Frederick William, the fourth brother of the King. He died of a dropsy, the 8th of December, in his sixteenth year.

These breaches in the Royal House were shortly after succeeded by the death of Edward, Duke of York, at Monaco, in Piedmont. He was of the naval profession; had distinguished himself in the attack on Cherbourg, under Lord Howe, by his spirit and gallantry; and his affability, added to a considerable share of information, acquired him popularity. The King felt the loss severely; but he had to endure many other trials of a painful nature, and such as required an uncommon exertion of fortitude. The agitated state of the metropolis, on account of the proceedings against Wilkes; the weakness and unpopularity of ministers; and the disturbances in the American colonies—shook the throne to such a degree, that men's hearts trembled for its safety. Amidst these external convulsions, the Royal Family exhibited a scene of harmony, and, like an oasis in the stormy desert, was calm and serene, while the surrounding horizon presented nothing but blackness and discord. Each returning year also gave an addition to this domestic happiness, by enlarging its circle. On the 24th of September, 1766, the Princess Royal was born; on the 2d of November, in the following year, her Majesty was delivered of a fourth son, Edward, who became Duke of Kent; and on the 8th of November, 1768, the Royal line received a further extension by the birth of the Princess Augusta.

It might have been expected that this increase in the family, and the exemplary manner in which the Royal household was conducted, would have brought the people to reason, and have made them ashamed of the delusive

arts by which they were instigated to mischief and outrage.

In order to allay the popular frenzy, and turn the current of public opinion into the peaceful channel from which it had been diverted by faction, the Queen adopted an ingenious expedient, which was both pleasing in itself, and beneficial to trade. On the 25th of October, 1763, being the anniversary of the King's accession to the throne, a drawing-room was held at St. James's Palace, by the Prince of Wales, and his sister the Princess Royal. The novelty of the spectacle gave it peculiar attraction, and the court was of course crowded with persons of the first distinction. The Prince was dressed in scarlet and gold, with the insignia of the Order of the Garter; on his right was the Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, in blue and gold, with the Order of the Bath; next to him, on a rich sofa, sat the Princess Royal; and at her right hand, elegantly clothed in Roman togas, were the junior princes, William Henry, afterwards William IV and Edward, the late Duke of Kent.

The appearance of so many fine children excited lively emotions in the company, who were still more delighted, and even surprised, at the grateful manner in which the Heir-apparent, and his sister, deported themselves towards the whole fashionable circle.

Such was the impression produced by this pleasing spectacle, that, with a similar view to conciliation, the Prince was again brought conspicuously before the public, by giving a juvenile ball and supper at Buckingham House, on the 15th of March, 1770.

Among the domestic virtues which distinguished George the Third and his Queen, there was none that reflected upon them so much honour as the manner in

which they brought up their young family. In the discharge of this duty, each parent took an active part. While the children were in the nursery, under the superintendence of Lady Charlotte Finch, mother of the present Earl of Winchelsea, the King visited them every morning and evening. When they grew up, he paid the closest attention to their health and improvement, by keeping them in constant exercise, regulating their diet, and placing about them proper persons for their instruction.

The three elder princes were all brought up together and had the same ruler, Dr. John James Majendie, till the year 1771; when it was deemed expedient to form a separate establishment for the Heir-apparent and his brother Frederick, at Buckingham House, under the care of Dr. Markham and Dr. Cyril Jackson; while Prince William, now six years old, and Prince Edward being only three, continued at Kew. It was about this time that a circumstance occurred, which, though trivial in itself, is said to have created some amusement in the Royal household. The story found its way into the London papers, and being characteristic of two illustrious monarchs in their childhood, merits insertion here. The paragraph is thus worded: "The following are the particulars relative to the improper behaviour of the person who struck Prince William Henry. His Royal Highness, with the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnaburgh, and Prince Edward, were at play in one of the apartments, when the head of one of their drums being out, the young gentlemen prevailed on the attendant to get into the hoop, that they might draw her about. Prince William, who was full of humour, contrived to throw her down; when she, in her foolish resentment, flung him against the wainscot. The King, on being told of it, ordered her to go to,

St. James's, and remain there till the return of Lady Charlotte Finch to town, as his Majesty did not choose to interfere in such matters. On the arrival of Lady Charlotte, she examined into the particulars, when another of the servants said that the accused attendant did not strike the prince. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales being present, said, with great spirit, "Pray do not assert any such thing; you know she did strike my brother: but you are both Scotchwomen, and will say any thing to favour one another." This answer occasioned much diversion; but it serves at least to shew the early affection of the princes for each other.

We shall now leave the Prince of Wales and his brother Frederick to pursue their studies for the present, and barely observe, that the Earl of Holderness was chosen for their governor, who, with the consent of the King, solicited, as his assistant in this important office, M. de Salzas, a native of Switzerland. This gentleman had been private tutor in the family of a rich burgomaster in Holland, where he became known to Lord Holderness, when ambassador at the Hague. His lordship made him his private secretary, and brought him to England, which led to his present appointment. The King was so well satisfied with the conduct of M. de Salzas, and had so high an opinion of his judgment, that, some time after, he consulted him about the education of Prince William-Henry, and particularly upon the choice of a person best qualified to act as subgovernor to him and his brother Edward. M. de Salzas accordingly recommended to his Majesty, Colonel Bude, a native of the Pays de Vaud, who had been page to the Prince of Orange, and afterwards procured a commission in the Sardinian service. Lord Holderness supported the recommendation, and, in con-

sequence, Colonel Bude came to England, obtained a permanent residence in the Royal household, and was further rewarded with the rank of a general in the Hanoverian service. His qualifications for the important situation which he now held, were of the most substantial, extensive, and valuable nature. Besides his professional experience, he had a thorough knowledge of the mathematical sciences, and a familiar acquaintance with the ancient and modern languages. His manners were highly polished, his sense of honour was delicate, and his religious principles were founded on the firm base of unadulterated Christianity. His Royal pupils ever treated him with affectionate esteem; and when Prince William, after the peace, visited the continent, General Bude accompanied him, and returned with his Royal Highness to England.

Upon the formation of the establishment of the Duke of York, General Bude was appointed his private secretary, and he continued to enjoy his Royal Highness's warm friendship and entire confidence through life. The General was at all times admitted to the private circle of George the Third, with whom he frequently played at chess, as long as the King could indulge in his favourite amusement. He was also honoured by the kind attentions of the Queen, and all the members of the Royal Family, under whose friendly roof, in the Upper Lodge of Windsor Castle, he closed his long and virtuous career, at the age of eighty-two, on the 30th of October, 1818.

Dr. Majendie, the classical tutor of Prince William, had been employed to instruct the Queen in the English language, when she first came over from Germany; and he continued ever after to reside at Kew or Windsor, enjoying the confidence of their Majesties till his death in 1783. It has been supposed that he was a Frenchman,

or German, but this is a mistake; he was a native of Exeter, where his father, a Protestant refugee, settled, after the revocation of the edict of Nantes. The son was educated for the church, and was made canon of Windsor. Dr. Majendie was succeeded in the tutorship of the Princes by his son, Henry William Majendie, afterwards Bishop of Bangor, an elegant scholar, and able mathematician.

The King, though his own education was far from being well conducted, possessed more general knowledge, particularly in the practical sciences, than the world gave him credit for. His memory was uncommonly tenacious, and what he once read, he seldom forgot. Geography and astronomy were his favourite studies, and, as he understood those sciences perfectly himself, he felt great pleasure in teaching them to his children.

But while his thoughts were occupied in forming arrangements for the most important object that can engage a parent's care, family troubles came upon the King in rapid succession. The first was, the marriage of the Duke of Cumberland with the relict of Colonel Horton, and daughter of Lord Irnham. His Majesty was already offended with his brother, from the disgrace he had brought upon himself, by an intrigue with Lady Grosvenor; for which a verdict, with heavy damages, was returned against him in the court of King's Bench. Upon the discovery of this fresh indiscretion, the King interdicted the Duke and his consort from appearing at court. A message was also sent to Parliament, recommending a new legislative provision, to restrict any of the Royal Family from contracting marriages without the consent of his Majesty and his successors.

These indiscretions in the members of the Royal Family led to the passing of a new and extraordinary

bill, "The Royal Marriage Act," which provides that marriages contracted by the Royal Family from this time are declared null and void, unless the previous approbation of his Majesty be obtained; but in case the parties shall have attained the age of twenty-five years, and given notice to the Privy Council of their intention of marriage, such marriage shall be held good in law, unless the Parliament shall, within the space of twelve months, declare its disapprobation of the same.

Upon this, the Duke of Gloucester, regardless of his brother's displeasure, made an open declaration of his marriage with the Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, which had taken place privately five years before.

At the very time when this bill was in its progress through parliament, a tragical scene, in proof of the evil effects of political marriages, was displayed in Denmark where, through the mental imbecility of Christian the Seventh, his consort, Caroline Matilda, sister to the King of Great Britain, suffered every possible injury from the Queen Dowager, Julia Maria. This woman, who was only the mother-in-law of Christian, taking advantage of his weakness, seized all the power into her own hands, with a view to set aside the issue of Caroline Matilda, in favour of her own son Frederick. The young queen, on a charge of treason, was thrown into the castle of Cronenburgh; and two ministers of state, Struensee and Brandt, were tried and beheaded, as her accomplices. Caroline Matilda would have suffered also, had it not been for the interposition of her brother. As soon as the King was apprised of his sister's danger, he sent orders to his ambassador at Copenhagen, to demand the liberation of the Queen: which, however, was not effected, till a squadron arrived to enforce compliance;

and then she was conveyed to Zell, where she died three years afterwards of a broken heart.

The shock which the King sustained by the sufferings of his sister, was rendered more painful by the death of his mother, the Princess Dowager of Wales, on the 8th of February, 1772. She had long been in a declining state, and her disorder was increased by this very marriage, to which, from the beginning, she had as great an aversion as her daughter. The King and Queen used to visit her every evening, at eight o'clock; but, when she grew worse, they went at seven, pretending they mistook the hour. The night before her death, they were with her from seven to nine; during which time she kept up the conversation as usual; and when the physician said her pulse was more regular than usual, she answered, "Yes, and I hope I shall have a good night's rest." She expired about six in the morning, without a struggle.

Soon after this event, their Majesties left the Old Lodge at Richmond for their Palace at Kew, which continued to be their principal residence several years, on account of its convenient distance from town, and the benefit of its situation for the health of the children, who were now, by the birth of Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, increased to nine in number. It was at this time that the King employed Zoffany, who then lived at Kew, to paint a large picture of the family. The artist accordingly made his sketch, attended two or three times, and went on finishing the figures. Various circumstances, however, interposed, and prevented him from proceeding as speedily as he wished. His Majesty was sometimes engaged in matters of more consequence. At another time, Her Majesty was too busy to sit. Again,

some of the Princesses were unwell ; or the Princes could not be spared from their studies. Thus the completion of the picture was retarded, when a messenger came to inform Zoffany that another prince was born, Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, and that of course he must be introduced into the group. This was not an easy matter ; but, after a further loss of time, it was effected with great ingenuity. Scarcely, however, had these adjustments been made, before a second messenger arrived, to announce the birth of the Princess Sophia, Duchess of Gloucester, and to acquaint the artist that the illustrious stranger must have a place on the canvass. This was impossible, without a new arrangement. One half of the figures, therefore, were obliterated, in order that the grouping might be closer, to make room for the Princess. To do this properly, was the business of some months, but before it was finished, a letter came from one of the maids of honour, informing the painter that another stranger had just arrived, for whom a place must be found. "Oh, oh ! God bless my soul," exclaimed Zoffany, "this is too much ; if they cannot sit with more regularity, I cannot paint with more expedition, and must give it up." The artist, however, contrived to introduce Her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia, and then expedited the work as fast as possible, to avoid another intrusion.

In the spring of 1776, an alteration took place in the department of education, as far as related to the two elder Princes. The Earl of Holderness, for some reason never yet explained, relinquished the governorship ; and M. Salzas, much against the inclination of the King, followed his lordship's example. Dr Markham, who had a few years before been made Bishop of Chester,

gave up the tutorship; as also did Dr. Jackson. Lord Bruce succeeded the Earl of Holderness; Dr. Hurd, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, took the place of Dr. Markham; and, in the room of Dr. Jackson, came in Mr. William Arnald, of Cambridge, who not long after was made Canon of Windsor.

The tuition of Prince William continued under the same directors, only Mr. Arnald became the coadjutor of Mr. Henry Majendie; and as his Royal Highness had evinced a decided predilection for the naval profession, his education was now pursued with a view to that object. The King was pleased with this spirit of his son, and, having from his own early youth paid particular attention to the theory of nautical science, he gladly took an active part in the instruction of the Prince.

The following characteristic sketch of this hope of Britain was drawn by the ingenious Mrs. Chapone, niece to Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Winchester, who had been the tutor of George the Third. In a letter written at Farnham Castle, on the 20th of August, 1778, she says—

“ Mr. Buller, (afterwards Bishop of Exeter, who married one of the bishop's daughters,) went to Windsor on Saturday; saw the King, who inquired much about the Bishop; and hearing that he would be eighty-two next Monday, ‘Then,’ said the King, ‘I will go and wish him joy.’ ‘And I,’ said the Queen, ‘will go too.’ Mr. Buller then dropt a hint of the additional pleasure it would give the Bishop, if he could see the Princes. ‘That,’ said the King, ‘requires contrivance; but if I can manage it, we will all go.’ On the Monday following, the Royal party, consisting of their Majesties, the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnaburg, Prince

William-Henry, the Princess Royal, and Princess Augusta, visited the Bishop. The King sent the Princes to pay their compliments to Mrs. Chapone; himself, he said, being an old acquaintance. 'Whilst the Princes were speaking to me,' adds the lady, 'Mr. Arnald, the sub-preceptor, said, These gentlemen are well acquainted with a certain ode prefixed to Mrs. Carter's *Epictetus*; if you know any thing of it——. [This ode was written by Mrs. Chapone.] Afterwards, the King came and spoke to us, and the Queen led the Princess Royal to me, saying, This is a young lady, who, I hope, has much profited by your instructions [the *Letters on the Improvement of the Mind*,] more than once, and will read them often: and the Princess assented to the praise which followed, with a very modest air. I was pleased with all the Princes, but particularly with Prince William, who is little of his age, but so sensible and engaging, that he won the Bishop's heart, to whom he particularly attached himself, and would stay with him while all the rest ran about the house. His conversation was surprisingly manly and clever for his age—yet, with the young Bullers, he was quite the boy; and said to John Buller, by way of encouraging him to talk, Come, we are both boys, you know.—All of them shewed affectionate respect to the Bishop; and the Prince of Wales pressed his hand so hard, that he hurt it.' "

The American war had been raging three years, when France, after acting a most insidious part, threw off the mask of friendship, and soon after compelled Spain to join in a confederacy, which ultimately brought ruin on both countries. Very remarkable, and almost oracular, was the laconic answer of George the Third to the ambassador Noailles, when he applied for his passports

n person : " It is what I have long foreseen ; but it is your master that will feel the consequences."

The crisis was awfully alarming, for, besides three open and powerful enemies, Britain had to struggle against the treacherous practices of other states, who, while they affected to be neutral, carried on war in disguise. Nor was this all the danger to which the nation was exposed. Her navy had sustained a severe injury, by the indecisive action fought off Ushant on the 27th of July, 1778, between the English fleet under Keppel, and the French, commanded by D'Orvilliers.

Each claimed the honour of a victory, and perhaps with equal reason, for neither carried off any trophy from the battle. The return of the English without having taken or destroyed a single ship, was a thing so unusual, that the people became clamorous : unfortunately, their resentment was made instrumental to factious purposes. Government censured the commander-in-chief, who was connected with the opposition ; and that party threw the odium upon Sir Hugh Palliser, who favoured the administration. A court-martial was held (7th January, 1779,) at which Keppel was acquitted honourably, but Palliser received a reprimand ; and the ministry accepted the resignation of his place at the admiralty board, his government of Scarborough castle, his lieutenant-generalship of marines, and permitted him to vacate his seat in the House of Commons.

Such was the state of humiliation to which the pride and boast, the glory and strength of Britain, was reduced, when Prince WILLIAM-HENRY, on the 15th of June, 1779, entered as a midshipman on board the *Prince George*, of ninety-eight guns, carrying the flag of Rear-Admiral Robert Digby, at Spithead.

CHAPTER II.

FROM 1779 TO 1781.

ON the 16th of June, the Prince George got under weigh, and proceeded down the Channel to Torbay, where the grand fleet, consisting of thirty-seven sail of the line, under the command of Sir Charles Hardy, lay at anchor. On the 18th of July, the whole, in three divisions, made sail to the westward, in order to prevent the junction of the French and Spanish squadrons commanded by D'Orvilliers and Cordova. But, though it does not seem that there was any want of vigilance on the part of the English admirals, the Spaniards succeeded in getting into Brest.

Soon after, the combined fleets, amounting to sixty-six line-of-battle ships, quitted the harbour, and entered the British channel, forming one great chain from shore to shore, sweeping all before them, and directing their course for Plymouth. The appearance of this formidable armada, the like of which had never been seen in our seas since the reign of Queen Elizabeth, spread terror along the western coast, and throughout the country. The most fearful apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the great naval arsenal of Plymouth, off which the combined fleets came on the 17th of August, in two divisions, sailing in a line ahead.

Just as they passed the Eddystone, there came into the Sound a fleet from Portsmouth with stores; which,

strangely enough, the enemy suffered to enter without molestation, though the capture could not have been prevented. The *Ardent*, of sixty guns, however, which had the charge of this convoy, mistaking the enemy's ships for the fleet of Admiral Hardy, ran towards them, and was taken after firing one or two broadsides.

While nothing less was expected than a landing either at Cawsand or in Torbay, to the astonishment and joy of the inhabitants, the enemy disappeared; having effected nothing beyond the single capture of the *Ardent*, which grand achievement was announced by the French government in a public report, similar to our extraordinary gazette. In returning down the Channel, the combined fleets and the English came in sight of each other at break of day, on the 31st of August, off the Lizard. The weather was hazy and squally, so that the two fleets soon passed each other; but when it cleared up, a running action took place, during some hours, without any loss on either side, and before the next morning not a ship of the enemy was to be seen. Though this was a flight, it could not be justly called an inglorious one; considering the disparity of force between the two fleets, and the defenceless state of the whole southern coast from the Land's End to the Isle of Wight.* So unprepared was Plymouth for any resistance, that had that advantage been taken of the absence of the Channel fleet which was expected, and which was doubtless at first intended, the most important post in the kingdom would have become a heap of ruins. Why this work of destruction was not effected, under circumstances so favourable to the invaders, was a question which every one put, and which nobody could answer. Various conjectures were formed, but at last it was ascertained that England was

indebted for its deliverance partly to the sickness occasioned by the over-crowded state of the Spanish ships, and still more to the want of that cordiality among the confederate leaders, without which no combined movements can be carried into effect.

Upon this portion of our history, some light is thrown in the memoirs of an extraordinary adventurer, who went by the name of the Count de Parades. Just before the war broke out, this man visited England, for the purpose of making such observations as might be of service to France. Having examined every thing, and taken notes of whatever he thought important, he returned to Paris. Upon communicating to Sartine, the minister of marine, the information he had obtained, he received much commendation for his zeal, and was directed to renew his inquiries.

Accordingly, Parades came again to England, procured further intelligence, and formed connexions for a settled correspondence during the war. On his arrival in London, he engaged a man in his service for a certain sum of money down, and one hundred pounds a month. This worthy introduced Parades to two Jews, who entered into the concern, and quitted London with him on a third tour to the coast. The morning after his arrival at Plymouth, he visited the citadel. Having made his observations, and taken some sketches, accompanied with his guide, a sentinel observing two strangers at an early hour, whom he had not seen enter, informed the guard. A sergeant then came to Parades, asked what he did there, and observed—he might have known that nobody was permitted to visit the place. Parades answered, that he was ignorant of it, being a stranger, and that his guide, who was one of the town, should not have brought

him thither. "Seize that rascal," said the sergeant to his soldiers, and carry him to the guard-house." Immediately they took him by the collar, and were leading him off, when Parades put his hand into his pocket, took out two guineas, gave them to the sergeant, and said, "Pray, let the poor fellow go; no doubt, he did it for the want of knowing better." The money having blinded the eyes of the sergeant, he said, "Turn that fellow out, and don't let him come here again." Then addressing Parades, he said, "Perhaps your honour would wish to see the fortress; if so, I will conduct you." Here Parades continued two or three hours, making his observations; after which the obliging sergeant accompanied him to his inn, where two guineas more secured his friendship.

The Count's principal agent was not less active. He hired a vessel, the master of which engaged punctually to obey the orders of the French ministry, on condition of being paid eight hundred pounds a month, for himself and crew. Afterwards it was found more convenient to purchase a new vessel of fourteen guns; and the captain informed the Count, that he could gain over a man who held an office under the government, and was able to render him essential services. This person being sounded, proved compliable, and was rewarded with one hundred and fifty pounds a month, to furnish his employers with copies of the secret orders issued by the Admiralty, and of the despatches received there.

The first intelligence obtained from this quarter was, that thirteen ships of the line were to be fitted out at Plymouth, destined for America, under the command of Admiral Byron. The English minister, being informed that a squadron of twenty-five ships had sailed from Brest, gave orders to Admiral Keppel to put to sea from

Portsmouth with all the vessels there, which amounted to twenty, to watch the French fleet, but without engaging them, in order to favour Byron's voyage, by keeping them in check. As soon as Byron had gotten out of their reach, Keppel was to return to Portsmouth, to complete his equipment. Intelligence of all this was despatched to M. de Sartine, and by him to the Count de Orvilliers : but the latter doubting the authenticity of it, and fearing he should have thirty-two ships to engage instead of twenty, remained idle ; and thus gave Byron an opportunity to proceed on his voyage.

After the affair between Keppel and D' Orvilliers, the enterprising Parades turned his thoughts to the seizure or destruction of Plymouth. For this purpose, he renewed his intimacy with his old acquaintance, the sergeant ; and having made another survey of the arsenal and coast, he sailed for Portsmouth, and anchored off Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight. Deeming it of importance to gain possession of Hurst Castle, which commands the entrance of the Needles, he proposed to his captain, without acquainting him of his real design, to prevail on the garrison to deposit there some smuggled goods. This, for a certain share of the profits, was readily agreed to ; and thus he obtained admission for any number of troops in disguise by night, whenever their services might be required.

Parades now laid his plans before M. de Sartine, by whom they were approved, and the projector was amply rewarded. He required only four thousand men for Plymouth, fifteen hundred for Hurst Castle, two ships of the line, two frigates, and the same number of fire-ships. But the French minister thought the scheme too narrow. An army of thirty thousand men, therefore, was assembled ;

and, instead of two millions of livres, as proposed by Parades, fifty millions were expended in doing nothing. The fleet was equipped, but, instead of repairing to Plymouth, the time was spent in waiting for the Spanish squadron from Cadiz : and when at length it did arrive off the harbour, the officers appeared to be all united against the commander-in-chief, to whom they had conceived a dislike, because he had rank in the army ; so that nothing was attempted.

Thus ended a mighty enterprise, that was designed to blot England out of the map of Europe ; or at least to take from her the sovereignty of the seas—but, *Parturiunt montes ; nascetur ridiculus mus.*

It must be allowed, however, that the scheme was not a visionary one ; and, had it been as vigorously conducted, as it was well contrived, there can be little doubt that an inglorious and humiliating peace must have ensued. Providentially, the designs of the enemy were frustrated, but not by the vigilance of the British ministers ; or by the measures of defence which it was their duty to have provided, knowing, as they did, that the most desperate malignity against England pervaded the councils of the French government. Instead of carrying on a honourable warfare, the cabinet of Versailles, which all along had been acting a treacherous part in the support of the Americans, now stooped to the vilest expedients for the annoyance of a power, that, so far from giving it any provocation, was only blameable for its imprudent forbearance. Spies were spread throughout the kingdom. English smugglers were armed with French commissions to commit acts of piracy ; incendiaries were employed to set fire, not only to the national dock-yards, with their shipping and storehouses, but even

to those of the mercantile ports. Temptations of the most powerful nature were held out, to allure men of talent from their allegiance, and to gain them over to the service of the Americans, or their allies. It is to be feared that Sartine was too successful in this nefarious practice; and that there were persons so lost to all virtue, as to receive the wages of iniquity, under the miserable self-delusion, that they were assisting the cause of freedom.

That the French minister of marine and his colleagues were unprincipled enough to bribe men in public employment to betray their trust, has been fully proved. But the degradation of that government did not stop there. Estimating the moral dignity of others by his own corrupt mind, Sartine had the boldness to make an experiment upon the honesty of one of the brightest ornaments of the British navy. Admiral Sir George Bridges Rodney having fallen into pecuniary difficulties, chiefly through a severely contested election, was under the necessity of seeking a refuge in France from the importunity of his creditors. He was there when hostilities commenced, but could not venture to return home on account of the embarrassment which had driven him abroad. To his applications for employment, the ministry at home paid no attention; though, if the services of such a man were ever wanted, it was at that critical period, when the navy was in a most dislocated condition.

Sartine, who knew the character and circumstances of Sir George Rodney, flattered himself that the veteran's integrity might be overcome by the seductive influence of that powerful charm, which the crafty statesman had never yet found to fail when skilfully applied. This was a case, however, that required peculiar dexterity in the management, and an agency very different from any

that Sartine was in the ordinary habit of employing on such occasions. Among the admiral's friends at Paris, the principal was the Marechal Duc de Biron, a nobleman who stood deservedly high in the estimation of the public, as well as in the favour of the King. Sartine persuaded the weak monarch to lay his commands upon the duke to sound his friend the British admiral, and to make him the most liberal offers, if he would accept the command of a French fleet destined for the West Indies. The marechal did not very well relish the commission, for two reasons—one was, that he had too high an opinion of the admiral's honour, to believe that he would listen for a moment to the deceitful proposal; and, in the next place, he took it as an insult to himself to be thought capable of approving an action which, if it took place, must alienate him for ever from the person whom he now so highly valued.

The duke, however, in obedience to the royal mandate, invited Sir George to spend some weeks at his seat in the country. One morning, while walking in the gardens, the marechal began to introduce the subject, with as much cautious manœuvring as he could well practise; observing, that it was to be lamented an officer of such experience and gallantry should remain unemployed; and that there was now a signal opportunity for the display of his talents and the improvement of his fortune, in a country where he would meet with a more grateful return for his services than what he had met with in his own.

The admiral was struck; but, so far was he from being able to discover what this strange preamble would lead to, that, at length, he became alarmed, and imagined the duke must be deranged in his intellects; under which impression, he began to eye him with some apprehension. The duke

perceiving this, came to the point, and said, "that, as the King his master intended to make the West Indies the theatre of war, he had commissioned him to make unbounded offers to Sir George, if he would quit the English service, and accept the command of a French squadron on that station."

Those who have any recollection of the expressive countenance and piercing glance of the admiral, will readily figure to themselves the manner with which he received this address, and to which he made the following reply:—
' My distresses, it is true, have driven me from the bosom of my country; but no temptation whatever can estrange me from her service. Had this overture been a voluntary one of your own, I should have deemed it an unpardonable insult, but I am glad to learn that it proceeds from a source that can do no wrong.'—The duke was affected, but not surprised; for he had been too long acquainted with the noble mind of the admiral, to suppose that he would, under any circumstances, hesitate where his duty was concerned. Taking Sir George by the hand, the marechal apologized for the disagreeable trial he had put him to, offered him the unlimited use of his purse, and assured him of his unalterable regard. He did more, and served him effectually, by transmitting the particulars now related to the British ministry; in consequence of which, the admiral immediately received an invitation to return, with the assurance of being appointed to a command, as soon as an arrangement could be made for the purpose. Upon this, he availed himself of the proffered assistance of his friend the duke, by borrowing the sum of one thousand louis to discharge the debts he had incurred in Paris, and which was repaid soon after his arrival in London. It merits notice here, that when the intelligence reached

Paris of the defeat of Count de Grasse, the population of that city were inflamed with the most violent rage and resentment against the marechal, vehemently reproaching him with having brought that disaster upon their nation. The marechal replied, "that he gloried in the man whose liberty he had effected, and in the victory which he had so nobly won."

The following anecdote of Admiral Rodney will amuse the reader, as characteristic of his spirit in correcting impertinence. A little before his departure from Paris, the Duke de Chartres, better known afterwards as the infamous Orleans, took occasion to acquaint Sir George that he was about to have a command in the fleet which was to be opposed to that under his friend and countryman Admiral Keppel; asking him, in an insulting manner, what he thought would be the consequence of their meeting? "That my countryman will carry your highness home with him, to learn English," replied Rodney.

Though this brave officer returned to England in the spring of 1778, he did not obtain an appointment till the first of October in the following year. The Spaniards had now commenced the blockade of Gibraltar; and the French, at the same time, menaced the whole of our West India Islands. To provide, therefore, for the security of those valuable possessions, a fleet, consisting of twenty-two sail of the line, was placed under the command of Admiral Rodney, who, after throwing supplies into Gibraltar, was directed to make all possible despatch for the ulterior object of his destination. Admiral Digby's division was attached to this fleet; and the whole sailed from Plymouth on the 29th of December. General Mundy, in his interesting memoir and cor-

respondence of Admiral Rodney, recently published, says, "It was a circumstance no less gratifying than flattering to Sir George Rodney, that he was selected by his Majesty to introduce his third son, Prince William-Henry, to the service of his country—a service to which his Royal Highness has ever shewn himself most devotedly attached; and in the duties of which, whilst in commission, he displayed much nautical talent, and maintained the most perfect discipline. His Royal Highness was placed, as a midshipman, on board the Prince George, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Digby—not nominally as a midshipman, but to do its duties; to have a thorough knowledge of the profession; to learn by practical experience the duties attached to the different stations, and to learn how to obey as well as how to command."

The uninformed reader might be led to suppose, from this statement and observation, that the Prince went for the first time to sea, under the particular care of Admiral Rodney; when, in fact, he had been already a year and a half in the service, and, in that time, had gone through much danger. The encounter of the channel-fleet with the combined French and Spanish squadrons in the preceding summer, exposed his Royal Highness to imminent danger; and, if a general action had taken place, as there was every reason to believe would have been the case, the carnage must have been considerable. There are veterans yet living, who recollect with pleasure the firmness of the heroic youth on that memorable occasion; the resolution which he displayed in anticipating an engagement; and the evident mortification he felt at the disappointment of his expectations.

This feeling, indeed, prevailed throughout the fleet, and

bitter were the invectives of the seamen, when, in obedience to the orders which the Admiralty had given, Sir Charles Hardy was reluctantly compelled to avoid a battle.

Ludicrous as the following anecdote is, it may be taken as a fair exemplification of the sentiments of the entire service. When the English fleet, under a press of sail, bore away from their opponents, a boatswain's mate on board the Royal George, stept over the ship's bows, and lashed a double hammock fast round the figure-head of the King. "What are you doing there?" says a lieutenant on the forecastle. "Only securing his peepers," replies Jack. "Peepers! what do you mean?" exclaims the officer. "Why," replied the man, "we arn't ordered to break the old boy's heart, are we? I'm sure if the King once gets a sight of this here day's work, and knows that we have run away like cowardly lubbers, it will be the death of him, poor soul."

Though this disgraceful event did not break the heart of the King, it certainly did that of Sir Charles Hardy; whose spirits were so oppressed on his arrival at Portsmouth, that he never went to sea again, and died shortly afterwards.

Such was the entrance of Prince William-Henry into public life; and when we consider his youth, the arduous nature of the service in which he engaged, and the extraordinary hazard he ran; we know not which to admire most—the patriotism of the King, in devoting his son to so perilous a profession, or the noble determination of the son to persevere in a course, which became attractive by its difficulties.

His Royal Highness left Windsor Castle at the end of November, and rejoined the Prince George at Ports-

mouth, which, with the rest of the fleet under Sir George Rodney, and a large convoy, was then ready for sea. The wind, however, blew so strong at south-west, that after beating down Channel, all the ships were forced into Cawsand Bay, from whence they departed, as already stated, on the 29th of December.

The delay, which had tried the patience of Rodney extremely, proved very fortunate in the result, by throwing into his hands a Spanish convoy of sixteen ships, laden with stores; together with seven men-of-war, which had them under protection. Of this acquisition, the Admiral wrote home the following account:—

“SANDWICH, at Sea, 9th January, 1780.

Lat. $41^{\circ} 44'$ N. Long. $14^{\circ} 25'$ W.

Cape Finisterre, E.N.E. 176 leagues.

“YESTERDAY, at daylight, the squadron of ships under my command, descried twenty-two sail in the north-east quarter. We immediately gave them chase, and in a few hours the whole were taken. They proved to be a Spanish convoy, which sailed from St. Sebastian's the 1st of January, and was under the protection of seven ships and vessels of war, belonging to the Royal Company of Caraccas, viz.

The Guipuscuano	64 guns,	550 men.
The San Carlos	32	200
The San Rafael	30	153
The Santa Teresa	28	150
The San Bruno	26	140
The Corvetta San Fermin	16	80
The San Vincento	10	40

“Part of the convoy was loaded with naval stores and provisions, for the Spanish ships of war at Cadiz; the rest with bale goods belonging to the Royal Company. Those loaded with naval stores and sale goods, I shall immediately despatch for England,

under convoy of His Majesty's ships, the *America* and *Pearl*. Those loaded with provisions, I shall carry to Gibraltar, for which place I am now steering, and have not a doubt that the service I am sent upon, will be speedily effected.

“As I thought it highly necessary to send a sixty-four-gun ship to protect so valuable a convoy, I have commissioned, officered, and manned the Spanish ship of war, of the same rate, and named her the *PRINCE WILLIAM*, in respect to his Royal Highness, in whose presence she had the honour to be taken. She has been launched only six months, is in every respect completely fitted for war, and much larger than the *Bienfaisant*, Captain Macbride, to whom she struck.

“I beg leave to congratulate your Lordships on this event, which must greatly distress the enemy; who, I am well informed, are much in want of provisions and naval stores.”

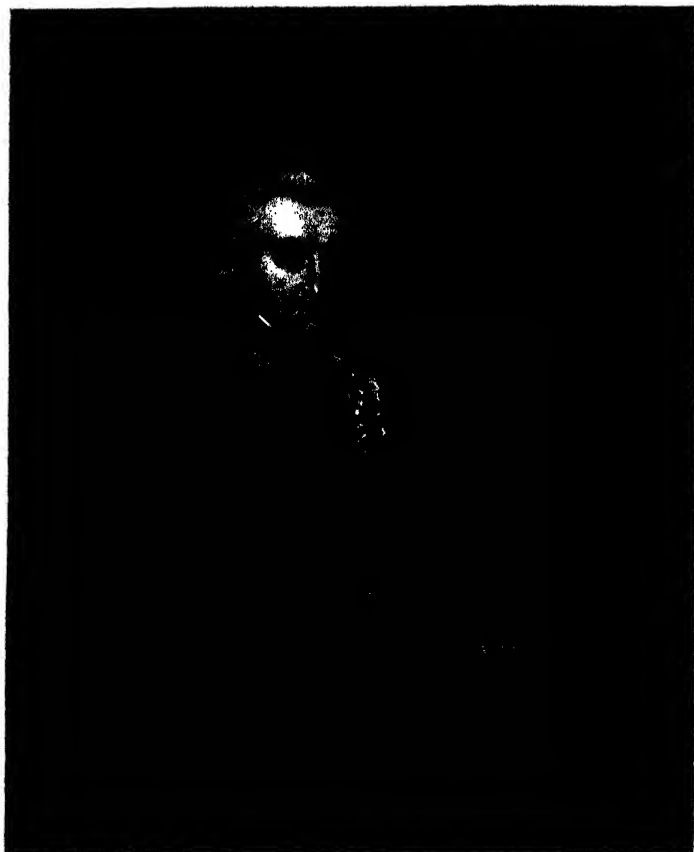
This capture, besides its being a valuable acquisition to the officers and seamen, proved also of the greatest national importance. It afterwards appeared, that a squadron of men-of-war, in consequence of the loss now sustained, was actually detained at Cadiz; being unable to proceed to the West Indies, for want of the supplies which were thus taken. That squadron would otherwise have sailed from Cadiz, and, having joined the French fleet at Martinico, the whole would have proceeded against the island of Jamaica, which was then in a very defenceless condition.

As soon as the prisoners were shifted, and the other necessary arrangements made, the English fleet pursued its course along the coast of Portugal. Admiral Rodney had gained certain information that a Spanish squadron was cruising off Cape St. Vincent; in consequence of which, he very judiciously ordered his ships to sail in a line abreast, with the convoy in the rear.

On the 16th of January, at one o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy, under the command of Don Juan de Langara, appeared in sight, consisting of fourteen ships of the line. When first discovered, they were under an easy sail, and some of them either lying to, or standing towards our fleet. The weather being hazy, and the English line much extended, it was imagined the Spaniards did not immediately discover the whole of Admiral Rodney's force, for it was some time before they began to retreat. Meanwhile our fleet was steering directly towards them, with a fair wind, and under a press of sail. The moment their intentions to escape was perceived, the signal for the line of battle was hauled down, and another thrown out for a general chase, to engage as the ships came up, by rotation, in order to prevent the enemy's retreat into their own ports.

At four o'clock, the headmost ships being very near the enemy, a general signal was made to engage, and close. Admiral Rodney then, as it was now dusk, and the Spanish force could not be distinctly seen, called the master of the Sandwich, and said, "Master, take notice that this ship is not to pay any attention to the merchantmen, or small ships of war. Lay me alongside the largest ship you can see, or the admiral's, if there be one."

In a few minutes, the four headmost ships, being copper-bottomed, began the action; which was returned with great briskness by the Spaniards. At forty-four minutes after four, the San Domingo, of seventy guns and six hundred men, blew up with a tremendous explosion, and every soul on board perished. At six, another of the Spanish ships of the line, struck. The action and pursuit continued, with a constant fire, till



Engraved by J. Cochran.

ADMIRAL GEORGE BRYDGES RODNEY, BARON RODNEY.

GB Rodney

two in the morning ; at which time, the *Monarca*, the headmost of all the Spanish ships, struck to the *Sandwich*, after receiving one broadside. All firing having now ceased, signal was made for the fleet to bring to.

This running engagement led the British fleet, and the prizes, very near the Spanish coast ; which, as the wind now blew hard, and the sea was consequently tempestuous, proved a very dangerous lee-shore. Great difficulty therefore was experienced in removing the prisoners, and putting the prizes in a state to proceed. The two last which surrendered, the *San Eugenio* and *San Julian*, were so much disabled, and got so near the harbour of Cadiz, that it became extremely hazardous, with such rough weather, to attempt taking them in tow. The *San Eugenio*, therefore, was abandoned, and soon struck upon some rocks, from whence she was shortly afterwards got off by the Spaniards themselves.

The *San Julian* having been driven, with only the stump of her foremast standing, very close to the shore, on the west side of Cadiz Bay, the British officers who had charge of her, seeing that it was impossible to bring her off, ran the prize aground near to the bar of Port St. Mary, where she was entirely lost ; but providentially, all on board, both Spaniards and English, were saved.

It continued very bad weather the whole of the next day ; when the *Royal George*, *Prince George*, *Sandwich*, and several other ships, were in great danger, and under the necessity of making sail, to avoid the shoals of St. Lucar ; nor did they get into deep water till the following morning, when, having joined the convoy, and made Cape Spartel, the British commander despatched two frigates to Tangier, to acquaint the consul there with the

victory that had been gained, and desiring him to hasten a supply of fresh provisions for the garrison of Gibraltar. The next day, as there was no person on board the Sandwich acquainted with the Bay of Gibraltar, Rear-Admiral Digby was ordered to lead in; and, at the same time, two frigates were sent ahead, to give notice to the governor of the approach of the fleet, and of the defeat of the enemy. The weather proved still very bad; and the current was so strong, that most of the ships were driven to the back of the rock. The Sandwich, therefore, and many of the men-of-war, with the prizes and English transports, on board which were one thousand troops, did not arrive in the bay till the 26th of January.

The following is a list of the Spanish force :

Phenix, Don Juan de Langara, admiral, eighty guns, seven hundred men; taken. She was built of mahogany and cedar, at the Havannah. After her capture, she was taken into the British navy, and obtained the name of the Gibraltar. She is now a sheer hulk at Plymouth.

San Augustin, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped.

San Genaro, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped.

San Justo, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped, much damaged.

San Lorenzo, seventy guns, six hundred men; escaped, very much damaged.

San Julian, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken, but lost.

San Eugenio, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken, and run ashore.

Monarca, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken.

Princessa, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken.

Diligente, seventy guns, six hundred men; taken.

• These three last ships were all brought safe with the Phenix, into Gibraltar.

San Domingo, seventy guns, six hundred men; blown up.

Santa Gertrude, twenty-six guns; escaped.

Santa Rozalia, twenty-eight guns; escaped.

This second loss which the Spaniards sustained, gave the decisive blow to their projected expedition, in concert with the French, against our West India settlements. It is highly gratifying to state, that the high talents displayed by Admiral Rodney on this occasion, were not more distinguished than his attention to the call of humanity.

Previous to his success against Langara, the English prisoners in Spain had been treated with the greatest barbarity; and it required more than an ordinary strength of constitution to exist for any length of time in a Spanish prison. When Admiral Langara was taken, both himself, as well as his officers and men, expected, naturally enough, to meet with the same treatment they had been accustomed to give to others, who had the misfortune to fall into their hands. They were, therefore, greatly astonished to find in the British commander a man of exalted sentiments, who felt for their misfortunes, relieved their wants, and did every thing in his power to lessen their affliction. His polite behaviour also made such a powerful impression upon their minds, as induced them to conceive some sympathy for the sufferings of English prisoners. The admiral took occasion to represent the miserable condition of his countrymen when captives in an enemy's country; and he obtained a pledge from Langara, that such Englishmen as might hereafter become prisoners in Spain, should experience a different treatment from that of which there had been too much cause to complain.

Under the immediate circumstances, however, there was too much reason to believe, that the Spanish government was far from appreciating this sentiment as it merited, or of even acting with common justice. Langara was extremely anxious to be released on his parole, as well as his officers, who were now prisoners of war. Admiral Rodney having some reason to apprehend that an unconditional discharge would not meet with an adequate return, refused to give up any of the prisoners, except some ecclesiastics, and the sick and wounded, until all the English captives were restored to their country. He was led to adopt this measure by receiving a letter from his majesty's consul-general in Portugal, acquainting him, that above six hundred Spanish prisoners had been released there, and that he had not received one Englishman in return. Upon this, the Admiral informed Langara, that he should be under the necessity of sending him and the remaining prisoners to England, unless, upon the unequivocal principle of exchange, or man for man. Whatever might be the private character of the Spanish commander, it is certain that the conduct of his court was base and dishonourable. Every thing was done to procrastinate the negotiation, with a view, no doubt, of embarrassing the operations of the British admiral, and obliging him to get rid of prisoners, whom he could as ill accommodate as support. The Spaniards themselves, at this time, indeed, were much straitened in their camp before Gibraltar. Colonel Drinkwater, in his interesting journal of the siege, has described their condition, after the victory of Rodney, as worse than that of the garrison:—

“A great many deserters came in,” says he, “and gave us dismal accounts of the enemy's sufferings in camp, where universal discontent prevailed on account of

the great scarcity and dearness of provisions. We little doubted the truth of this intelligence: the neighbourhood of their camp, from our knowledge of the country, was not capable of subsisting so large an army, consequently they were obliged to be supplied from places at a distance; and these resources, since Admiral Rodney's arrival, had been cut off.

“His cruisers, in truth, not only obstructed these supplies, but also prevented the garrison of Ceuta, on the opposite coast, from receiving the refreshments from Spain, which their situation made necessary. If Sir George Rodney, therefore, had been able to continue some time longer in the Mediterranean, our enemies would probably have been reduced to greater difficulties than we ourselves had experienced.”

Admiral Rodney perceiving to what all the shuffling of the Spanish authorities tended, resolved to bring the business to a point at once; and on the 10th of February wrote the following peremptory letter to Don Juan de Langara :—

“The delay of your court in restoring the subjects of the King, my master, to that liberty so justly their due, after more than one thousand Spanish prisoners have been delivered without returning even one British subject, is such a contempt, as behoves me, as a British Admiral, to act becoming a faithful and diligent servant to my royal master. All prisoners, therefore, whatever rank they may have, I am determined shall be conveyed to England in his Majesty's ships. I am, therefore, under the necessity of acquainting you, that proper accommodations shall immediately be made for you and your equipage on board one of his Majesty's ships, and proper boats will attend to-morrow morning to receive yourself, your baggage,

and servants, to embark for England. Proper attention shall likewise be paid to all those brave officers who had the honour of serving under your command.

“Believe me, sir, I feel most sensibly for your situation—so near your country and family, and neglected by those who ought to have shewed every respect due to a brave officer, who has so gallantly discharged the duty he owed his king and country. Nothing can alter this determination, but the release of all the British prisoners of war before my leaving this place, which will be as soon as possible.”

This letter, and the orders which followed it, had the desired effect. The Spanish General commanding the blockade, on the morning of the intended embarkation, sent notice that the English prisoners were on their way to St. Roque; that he had received positive commands from his sovereign to treat them with respect; that the court of Madrid was sensible of the humanity and urbanity with which their officers and men had been treated; and directing both him, and the viceroy of the province, with all his Catholic majesty's officers, to shew the English the greatest civility and kindness.

Upon this, Sir George Rodney immediately countermanded his orders for the embarkation of the Spanish prisoners, and the same day released Don Juan and his officers on their parole of honour, that he might, as he said, add to the favourable impression which had been made on the court of Madrid and the Spanish nation.

Previous to his departure, Don Juan visited Admiral Digby; which circumstance has furnished Colonel Drinkwater with an anecdote, which he thus relates:—“During the conference between the two Admirals, the Prince

retired ; and when it was intimated that Don Juan wished to return, his Royal Highness appeared in the character of a midshipman, and respectfully informed the Admiral that the barge was ready. The Spaniard, astonished to see the son of a monarch acting as a warrant officer, could not help exclaiming, "Well does Great Britain merit the empire of the sea, when the humblest stations in her navy are filled by princes of the blood !"

It is difficult to say, if the preceding anecdote confers on the British Prince, or the Spanish Admiral, the greater honour. The conduct ascribed to the former will add, in future years, a gem to the brilliant diadem he wore ; and the discernment and observation of the latter will never cease to be associated with Langara's name.

At the period of its assigned occurrence, the journals of the day repeated it with acclamation, and the nation triumphed in giving it publicity. In modern times, some few have affected to doubt the fact, but it was noticed on the continent, and had obtained a general circulation long before Colonel Drinkwater, in 1790, published his very interesting work on the ever memorable siege of Gibraltar.

It might well indeed excite admiration, to see a young prince, his years scarce fourteen, embarked on a tempestuous element, and exposed to the horrors of war. The impression made by this voluntary and noble act of devotion, may be estimated by the conduct of the great Frederick of Prussia. One of his nobles having solicited from the king a commission for his son, received this answer:—"As our young nobility in general never learn any thing, they of course are exceedingly ignorant. In England, one of the King's sons, wishing to instruct himself, has not scrupled to set out as a common sailor."

“ If any one of our men of fashion should chance to distinguish himself, and prove useful to his country, he will have no reason to plume himself upon his quality. Titles and birth are nothing else than vanity and folly. True merit is personal.”

Sir George Rodney having relieved Gibraltar and Minorca, left the bay on the 13th of February; and on the 15th, parted company with Admiral Digby, who was bound home, in charge of the prizes. In his letter to the Admiralty, Rodney said, “ The five Spanish men-of-war are as fine ships as ever swam. They are now completely refitted, manned, and put in line of battle; and, I will answer for them, will do their duty as English men-of-war, should the enemy give them an opportunity.”

On the 23rd, Admiral Digby fell in with a French convoy, bound to the Mauritius, consisting of two ships of sixty-four guns each; two large store-ships, *armé-en-flûte*; two frigates; and about thirteen sail of transports, with warlike stores and troops. Three of the convoy were taken, with the *Prothée*, one of the sixty-fours; but the *Ajax* and the rest escaped, owing to the want of proper frigates to pursue them.

It is a singular fact, that the news of Admiral Rodney's victory was first communicated to the British Government by Mr. Fitzherbert, now Lord St. Helen's; then our minister at Brussels; to which court a despatch had been sent express from Madrid; in which it was pretended that the advantage was in favour of the Spanish admiral. Mr. Fitzherbert, who was allowed a cursory view of the letter, with the practised eye of an adroit diplomatist, soon saw through the cheat, and, without delay, acquainted his government that Sir George Rodney had gained a victory over Langara's fleet. Captain Thompson

did not arrive in England with the admiral's official despatch till many days afterwards; he, as well as Captain Macbride, who was charged with a duplicate of the same, having encountered the most tempestuous weather and adverse winds, during a voyage of nearly a month. Mr. Fitzherbert's letter reached London on the 12th February.

As soon as Prince William landed, he set off for London, and arrived at the Queen's palace on the 8th of March; when the greeting which welcomed him may be imagined, but cannot be described. The day following, there was a full court; at which his Royal Highness was formally introduced by the Earl of Sandwich, then first lord of the Admiralty, for the purpose of presenting to his Majesty the flag of Don Juan de Langara, and that of the Prothée, which had been since captured. Colonel Drinkwater says:

“When that youthful hero, Prince William, on his return, laid his early laurels at the feet of his royal Father, he presented, at the same time, a plan of the garrison, in the relief of which he had made his first essay. In that plan were delineated the improvements which the place had undergone; and the new batteries that had been erected on the heights since the commencement of the blockade.”

To this interesting and affecting spectacle, than which, perhaps, one more touching was never exhibited at any royal levee, the writer of an animated Ode, in praise of Rodney, alluded, in the following stanzas:—

“Now last, not “least in love,” the Muse
 Her WILLIAM's name would fondly chuse
 The British youth among:
 Still may the sailors love thy name,
 And happy health and blooming fame
 Awake the future song.

“ So in the spring the promised rose
First buds, and budding gently blows
Beneath the morning dew ;
’Till, nourished by a warmer ray,
The blushing leaves their sweets display,
And fragrance ever new.

“ E’en now the sea-green sisters bind
A wreath around thy growing mind,
And deck their fav’rite son ;
E’en now the Bourbon colours meet,
Which, laying at thy father’s feet,
Thou tell’st how bravely won.”

The following poetical effusion, not void of merit, appeared at the same time, in honour of this promising hope of Britain :—

“ Still on the deep does Britain reign,
Her Monarch still the trident bears ;
Vain-glorious France, deluded Spain,
Have found their hostile efforts vain.
As the young eagle to the blaze of day,
Undazzled and undaunted, turns her eyes ;
So, unappall’d, when glory led the way,
’Midst storms of war, midst mingling seas and skies,
The genuine offspring of the Brunswick name
Prov’d his high birth’s hereditary claim ;
And the applauding nation hail’d with joy
Their future hero in the intrepid boy.”

The enthusiasm which animated the people on the achievement of the only naval battle that had been won since the commencement of hostilities, made the young Prince deservedly a popular favourite. Every person was

anxious to obtain a sight of him ; and when it was known that he purposed visiting Drury Lane Theatre on the evening of the 13th of March, the crowd was so great, that it became necessary to throw a kind of bridge from the stage to the pit, to enable the people to pass out, who were in danger of being pressed to death.

While on this subject, it may not be amiss to state, that the Corporation of London voted the freedom of the city, in a rich gold box, to Admiral Rodney ; as they had the year preceding voted one of heart of oak to Admiral Keppel. This gave occasion to the witty Caleb Whiteford, to compose the following pointed epigram, in which the citizens and their first favourite were not improperly characterized ;—

“ Each Admiral’s defective part,
 Satyric Cits, you ’ve told—
 That cautious Lee-shore wanted heart,
 And gallant Rodney gold.

Your wisdom, London’s Council far
 Our highest praise exceeds,
 In giving each illustrious tar
 The very thing he needs.

For Rodney brave, but low in cash,
 You golden gifts bespoke ;
 To Keppel rich, but not so rash,
 You gave a heart of oak.

Arduous as the service was in which Prince William had been recently engaged, he did not remain long ashore. On the 24th of May, Admiral Francis Geary hoisted his flag on board the Victory, as Commander-in-chief of the Channel Fleet, consisting of twenty-nine sail of the line,

in four divisions. The other admirals were, George Darby, in the *Britannia*; Sir John Lockhart Ross, in the *Royal George*; Robert Digby, in the *Prince George*; and Samuel Barrington, in the *Barfleur*.

Admiral Geary was a seaman of the school of Hawke; and how highly that noble veteran esteemed him, will appear from the following letter, written on his present appointment:—

“I find, by the papers, that you are getting ready for sea, with all the despatch that is possible, and that you will sail the instant that it is in your power; and, though I could wish this could get to your hands first, yet the times are so very pressing, from many unfortunate events, that I think the sooner you can get to my old station off Brest, the better it will be for my country. When you are there, watch those fellows as a cat watches a mouse; and if once you can have the good fortune to get up to them, make much of them, and don't part with them easily. Forgive my being so free. I love you. We have served long together, and I have your interest and happiness sincerely at heart. My dear friend, may God Almighty bless you! and may that all-powerful hand guide and protect you in the day of battle.”

In another letter, the veteran admiral repeats his advice, and in the same warmth of expression:—

“MY GOOD FRIEND,—I have always wished you well, and have ever talked freely and openly to you on every subject relative to the service. Recollect some of these passages; and, for God's sake, if you should be so lucky as to get sight of the enemy, get as close to them as possible. Do not let them shuffle with you by engaging at a distance, but get within musket-shot, if you can; that will be the way to gain great honour, and will be the means to make the action decisive. By doing this, you will put it out of the power of any of the crawlers to find



ADMIRAL EDWARD LORD HAWKE, K.B.

Hawke

fault. I am fully persuaded you will faithfully do your part ; therefore, hope you will forgive my saying so much.—My good friend, God bless you ! may the hand of Providence go with you and protect you in the day of battle, and grant you victory over our perfidious enemies !”

Such was the patriotic feeling of that illustrious hero, at the close of a long and glorious life. Lord Hawke died on the first of October, in the following year ; and as the history of his early life is curious, the reader will, no doubt, excuse the present digression.

The mother of Edward Hawke was sister to Colonel Bladen, one of the commissioners of trade and plantations, a person well known in the political world during the reign of George the First and Second. The Colonel one morning sent for his nephew, and said, “ Ned, would you like to be a sailor ?” “ Yes, sir,” replied the little hero. “ Are you willing to go now, or wait till you grow bigger ?” “ This instant, sir,” said young Hawke, though then only twelve years old. In a few days, his friends were consulted ; but his father, who was a merchant in the city, seemed totally averse to the proposition. Young Ned was not, however, to be dissuaded from his purpose ; and, at length, the father consented. On the morning of his departure to go abroad, his mother summoned all her fortitude, and addressed him with great calmness :—“ Adieu, Ned,” said she, “ I hope shortly to see you a captain.” “ A captain,” replied Ned, “ Madam, I trust you will soon see me an admiral.” He jumped instantly into the coach that was waiting to convey him to Portsmouth, and from thence to the ship, where the fleet lay, without any emotion.

Admiral Geary proceeded directly off Brest—his instructions being, to prevent, if possible, an intended

junction of the Spanish squadrons then in Cadiz, Ferrol, and Carthagena, with those of France, in Brest, Rochefort, and Port L'Orient. Nothing material, however, occurred till the 3rd of July, when the *Monarch*, Captain, afterwards Admiral, Duncan, being ahead of the fleet on the look-out, made a signal at ten o'clock in the morning for discovering a fleet consisting of twenty sail. These were immediately concluded to be the enemy of whom they were in search, and the utmost alacrity was used in endeavouring to get up with them. The chase continued the whole day; and at five in the afternoon, the headmost ships came up with the sternmost of the fugitives, which proved to be nothing more than a convoy from Port-au-Prince, under the protection of a single ship of fifty guns. The pursuers did not bring-to for the purpose of securing the ships as they passed, but left that duty to some others of the fleet that were still astern. Unfortunately, a very thick fog came on in the evening, which favoured the escape of nearly half of the convoy. Twelve, however, were captured; which, with the two taken in the Channel, were valued at one hundred and twenty-six thousand pounds.

During this long and arduous chase, there occurred a ludicrous circumstance. The first captain of the *Victory* was the brave but unfortunate Kempenfelt, equally celebrated for his nautical skill and valour. To his many valuable qualifications, he added, beyond most men in the service, great address in manœuvring, as well for continuing as bringing on an action. It was thought, however, by some, that he indulged his love of signals too far, and gave more trouble than was necessary. As soon as the strange fleet came in sight, Kempenfelt went below and brought up the signal-book, which he opened and



47: Hempstead

laid on the binnacle, with the greatest formality and precision. Admiral Geary, fully impressed with the idea that the chase was the Brest fleet, went up to Kempenfelt, took him by the button, shut the book, and said, "Now, my dear Kempy, do pray let the signals alone to-day, and to-morrow you shall order as many as ever you please."

As the fleet had now been at sea above two months, and had suffered much, it became necessary to return to port. Accordingly, the whole brought up at St. Helen's on the 18th of August; soon after which, Admiral Geary, being taken ill, relinquished the command to Admiral Darby.

There were near three thousand men on the sick list, when the fleet came to an anchor; yet, such was the excellent constitution of Prince William, he never had one day's illness during the whole of this long and tedious cruise. His Royal Highness, however, had a very narrow escape of another kind. In a storm, off Cape Finisterre, the Duke, of ninety guns, Captain Sir Charles Douglas, and the Prince George, were driven so close together, that, to use the sailor's phrase, you might have "tossed a biscuit from one ship to the other." Had a collision taken place, one, if not both vessels, would in all probability have gone to the bottom; but, fortunately, through the extraordinary exertions of the respective crews, and the good management of the officers, the threatened danger was prevented, and no damage was suffered on either side.

Such was the condition of the Prince George, that Admiral Digby was enabled to quit his moorings on the 28th of August, and proceed again down the channel with twelve sail of the line, for the protection of the

homeward-bound West India trade. Admiral Darby soon followed; and the whole squadron kept at sea till the beginning of December, when the want of provisions obliged the ships to return, having only bread enough left for two days. On entering the channel, the French fleet hove in sight; but night coming on before the number of the enemy could be ascertained, no action took place, and the next morning not one was to be seen.

Prince William having completed this arduous cruise, hastened to pass the winter in the bosom of his illustrious Family, by all of whom he was heartily caressed. The joy, however, produced by the arrival, safe and sound, of the royal sailor, after so many hair-breadth escapes, was somewhat damped by the departure of his brother, Prince Frederick, the late Duke of York, for the continent, to go through a course of military education, under the ablest masters of the art of war in the Prussian service.

This affecting separation took place at Buckingham House, on the morning of the 30th of December. Their Majesties felt much, and Prince William was greatly moved; but the Prince of Wales was so overpowered at the idea of being deprived, for several years, of the particular companion and friend of his youth, that he was unable to speak, or to refrain from tears.

On New-year's day his Royal Highness embarked at Harwich with the venerable Colonel Greville; and the following day landed at Ostend, where he was received with all the honours due to his exalted rank, by the commandant and magistrates.

CHAPTER III.

FROM 1781 TO 1783.

PRINCE WILLIAM was not long permitted to enjoy the pleasures of the season on shore. At the ball, given in honour of the Queen's birth-day, he joined in the lively dance; but, about a fortnight afterwards, he was on the quarter-deck of the Prince George, at Spithead, discharging the routine of duty as a midshipman. In every thing connected with the situation of a warrant-officer, he performed his part as punctually and cheerfully as the rest of his brother *mids*, towards whom, also, he behaved in such a manner, as gained their entire affection. His courtesy extended to all, and there was nothing he despised more than any endeavour to procure his favour by servility of address. No one approached him with the appellation of Your Royal Highness the second time; for the manner in which it was received sufficiently shewed how ill it was taken.

In the orlop, which is that part of the ship appropriated to the midshipmen, the Prince was the life and soul of his comrades. He shared with them in their amusements, and they partook of his better fortune; for the young and rising supporters of their country's greatness are not generally the children of affluence. Most of them, indeed, have to struggle with pinching difficulties during their long period of probation. Rodney was

not one of that class himself, but he felt for those who were ; and when his dinner was going aft, he has often seen the hungry *mids* cast over the dishes a wistful watery mouth ; upon noticing which, he has instantly arrested their supporters, and ordered the whole of his dinner, save one dish, to be carried to the midshipmen's mess.

The sympathy of Prince William was equal to that of the noble admiral ; and all on board the Prince George, of whatever station, were made happy by his generosity. By the officers he was beloved, and by the crew he was adored. The buoyancy of spirits, the disposition to relieve, the total absence of pride, and an incessant turn for humour and frolic, and not the circumstances of birth and dignity of title, were the points which marked his character, and rendered him the centre of attraction.

At this period of his life, the Prince was remarkable for a playfulness of manner, characteristic generally of a benevolent and innocent disposition. Having played one of his boyish practical jokes upon a contemporary and coeval, he was surprised at its being either misunderstood, or received in an unyouthful spirit. The paternal admonitions of Polonius to his son were fully impressed upon the mind of Prince William, and he resolved, having got into a quarrel, " to behave himself so that the opposer might beware of him." The offended middy, nephew of the admiral, and son of a gentleman of large estate in Dorsetshire, threw down the gauntlet, which was instantly taken up by the Prince. This movement was succeeded by several hard-fought rounds, terminated, as they should have been, by a *redintegratio amoris*.

On the 25th of February, 1781, Rear-Admiral Digby, with six sail of the line, got under weigh, and went down

Channel on a cruise; but, two days afterwards, the wind blew so violently from the westward, that the ships were driven into Plymouth Sound with considerable damage.

The siege of Gibraltar was now carried on with such extraordinary vigour, as to attract the attention and excite the wonder of all Europe. As the defence of that important fortress required large supplies from England, Admiral Darby, with two hundred transports, sailed from Spithead on the 13th of March, and, being joined by the squadron under Admiral Digby, proceeded on that service. Owing to the severe westerly gales which the fleet had to encounter, and the necessity of keeping the convoy together, the Admiral did not reach Cape Spartel till the 11th of April, when he despatched the Kite cutter with a letter to General Eliot, informing him of the approaching relief. The next day, about noon, the convoy, with four ships of the line and some frigates to protect them, anchored in and about Rosier Bay, while the rest of the squadron kept under sail in the road, as the Spaniards had at that time a large fleet in Cadiz ready for sea. Thirteen of the transports, with two frigates, were then forwarded for the relief of Minorca, the English garrison at which place was suffering still more dreadfully than that of Gibraltar. •

The following description of the appearance of this spectacle is given by the late Mr. Gilpin, in his work on picturesque scenery:—

“ It was near day-break, on the 12th of April, 1781, when a message was brought from the signal-house, at the summit of the rock, that the long-expected fleet, under Admiral Darby, was in sight.

“ Innumerable masts were just discovered from that lofty situation; but could not be seen from the lower

parts of the castle, being obscured by a thick fog, which had set in from the west, and totally overspread the opening of the straits. In this uncertainty, the garrison remained for some time; while the fleet, invested in obscurity, moved slowly towards the castle. In the mean time, the sun becoming powerful, the fog rose, like the curtain of a vast theatre, and discovered at once the whole fleet, full and distinct before the eye. The convoy, consisting of near three hundred vessels, were in a compact body, led on by twenty-eight sail of the line, and a number of tenders and other smaller vessels. A gentle wind just filled their sails, and brought them forward with a slow and solemn motion. Had all this grand exhibition been presented gradually, the sublimity of it would have been injured by the acquaintance the eye would have made with it during its approach; but the appearance of it in all its greatness at once, before the eye had examined the detail, had a wonderful effect."

As soon as the ships were secured, they began unloading the victuallers, amidst a tremendous fire from the Spanish batteries and gun-boats. Shot and shells poured like hail without a moment's cessation, upon the covering ships and the transports, many of which sustained great damage and considerable loss. The Commander-in-chief finding the wind likely to continue westerly, and anxious to give the garrison all the assistance in his power, by facilitating the unloading of the victuallers, and protecting them from the enemy, directed Admiral Sir John Ross and his division to anchor in the road. On the 19th Admiral Darby, with some of his ships, anchored to the eastward of Europa Point, in order to set up the rigging, and get off some fresh water. The next morning the

wind sprung up to the eastward, on which, as the service was now completed, the whole fleet got under weigh, and in the evening were clear of the bay.

Thus was our British Prince twice employed in the relief of Gibraltar, and each time with peculiar glory; for though the last occasion was not distinguished by any positive victory, it contributed to one of the greatest military triumphs ever recorded in history.

It is not a little remarkable, that two princes of the blood, both of whom many years afterwards became sovereigns, should have been present at the memorable siege of Gibraltar. The late King of France, then Comte d'Artois, being desirous of witnessing this grand spectacle, visited Spain for the purpose; and what, perhaps, is still more extraordinary, he actually took upon himself to be the bearer of letters for the officers of the garrison, from their friends. On the arrival of the Prince at the Spanish camp, these letters were sent to Governor Eliot by the Duke de Crillon, who then conducted the siege. This produced a correspondence, which cannot be read without exciting admiration, and carrying the mind back to the heroic ages of chivalry. The following is a translation of the Duke de Crillon's letter, written in the camp of Buenavista, August 19, 1782:— •

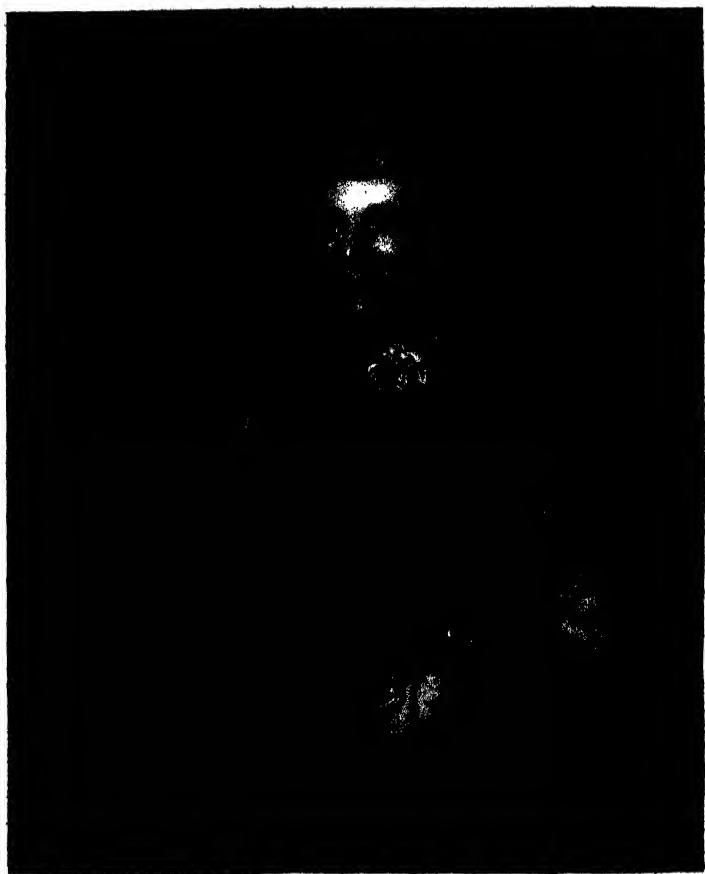
“ Sir,—His Royal Highness Comte d'Artois, who has received permission from the King his brother to assist at the siege, as a volunteer in the combined army, of which their most Christian and Catholic Majesties have honoured me with the command, arrived in this camp the 15th instant.

“ This young prince has been pleased, in passing through Madrid, to take charge of some letters, which has been sent to that capital, and are addressed to persons belonging to your garrison. His Royal Highness has desired that I would transmit

them to you, and that to this mark of his goodness and attention I should add the strongest expressions of esteem for your person and character. I feel the greater pleasure in giving this mark of condescension in this august prince, as it furnishes me with an opportunity, which I have been anxiously looking for these two months that I have been in the camp, to assure you of the high esteem I have conceived for your excellency; of the immense desire I feel of having yours; and of the pleasure to which I look forward of becoming your friend, after I shall have learned to render myself worthy of the honour of facing you as an enemy. His Royal Highness, the Duke de Bourbon, who arrived here twenty-four hours after Comte d'Artois, desires also that I should assure you of his particular esteem. Permit me, dear general, to offer you a few little trifles for your table, of which I am sure you must stand in need: as I know you live entirely on vegetables, I should be glad to be informed what kind you like best. I shall add a few partridges for the gentlemen of your household, and some ice, which I presume will not be disagreeable, in the excessive heat in this climate, and the present season of the year. I hope you will be so obliging as to accept the small portion which I send with this letter."

To this epistle, General Eliot returned, the next day, the following answer:—

"Sir,—I find myself highly honoured by your obliging letter of yesterday, in which your excellency was so kind as to inform me of the arrival in your camp of his Royal Highness the Comte d'Artois and the Duke de Bourbon, to serve as volunteers at the siege. These princes have shewed their judgment in making choice of a master in the art of war, whose abilities cannot fail to form great warriors. I am really overwhelmed with the condescension of his Royal Highness, in permitting some letters, for persons in this place, to be conveyed from Madrid in his carriage. I flatter myself that your excellency will give my most profound



Painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds, P. R. A.

Engraved by J. Jackson

GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELIOTT, LORD HEATHFIELD, BARON GIBRALTAR

Heathfield

respects to his Royal Highness, and to the Duke de Bourbon, for the expressions of esteem with which they have been pleased to honour so insignificant a person as myself.

“ I return a thousand thanks to your excellency for your handsome present of fruits, vegetables, and game. You will excuse me, however, I trust, when I assure you, that in accepting your present, I have broken through a resolution, which I had faithfully kept since the beginning of the war; and that was, never to receive, or procure, by any means whatever, any provisions, or other commodity, for my own private use; so that, without any preference, every thing is sold publicly here, and the private soldier, if he has money, can become a purchaser, equally with the governor. I confess I make it a point of honour to partake both of plenty and scarcity, in common with the lowest of my brave fellow-soldiers; which furnishes me with an excuse for the liberty I now take of entreating your excellency not to heap any more favours on me of this kind, as in future I cannot convert your presents to my own personal use. Indeed, to be plain with your excellency, though vegetables at this season are scarce with us, every one of us has got a quantity proportioned to the labour he has bestowed in raising them. The English are fond of gardening and cultivation; and here we find our amusement in it, during the intervals of rest from public duty.

“ The promise which the Duke de Crillon makes to honour me, in proper time and place, with his friendship, lays me under infinite obligations. The interests of our sovereigns being once solidly settled, I shall with eagerness embrace the first opportunity to avail myself of so precious a treasure.”

Admiral Darby returned to Spithead on the 21st of May; and in the following month sailed again, without meeting the combined Spanish and French fleets, which were falsely reported to have been seen in the chops of the Channel.

The recall of Admiral Arbuthnot from the North American station, was followed by the appointment of Admiral Digby to that important trust ; and in the beginning of September he arrived at Sandy Hook with the Prince George, Lion, and Canada.

The landing of Prince William-Henry at New York produced a very general sensation among the inhabitants. On the following Sunday his Royal Highness attended the episcopal church, which was exceedingly crowded. Dr. Inglis, the rector, afterwards Bishop of Nova Scotia, preached an appropriate sermon on the occasion, from the ninth verse of the twenty-third chapter of Deuteronomy, " When the host goeth forth against thine enemies, then keep thee from every wicked thing." Towards the close of this eloquent discourse, the doctor dwelt emphatically upon the unexampled instance of regard and confidence shewn to the King in sending a favourite son to such a distance, and at so great a risk, more for the sake of conciliation than the prolongation of hostilities.

Soon afterwards, the American loyalists, who formed a distinct corps, stationed on Bergen Neck, presented a congratulatory address to the Prince, in which they expressed the warmest affection for his person, and duty to his august Father. The Prince returned them his thanks, and promised to communicate their sentiments to the King without delay.

His Royal Highness now took up his residence in the city with the commander-in-chief; and though, as may well be supposed, there were numerous republicans in the place, the Prince went about unguarded, and often unattended.

This indifference to personal security tempted some of the Americans to form a plan for seizing the young

hero, and carrying him off to their camp in the neighbourhood of New York. How the scheme was frustrated, we are not told; but that it was nearly being put into operation, with a prospect of success, appears from the following account, recently published in America:—

“When his present Majesty, William IV. served as a midshipman in the British navy, he was for some time on the coast of the North American colonies, then in a state of revolution, and passed the winter of 1781 and 1782 in the city of New York. He is still borne in lively recollection by many of the elder inhabitants of that city, as a fine bluff boy of sixteen; frank, cheery, and affable; and there are anecdotes still told of his frolicsome pranks on ship-board. Among these, is the story of a rough, though favourite, nautical joke, which he played off upon a sailor boy, in cutting down his hammock while asleep. The sturdy sea urchin resented this invasion of his repose; and, not knowing the quality of his invader, a regular set-to of fisticuffs ensued in the dark. In this, it is said, the Prince showed great bottom—and equal generosity on the following morning, when he made the boy a handsome present of money. His conduct, in this boyish affair, is said to have gained him the hearts of all his shipmates.

“The Prince manifested, when on shore, a decided fondness for manly pastimes. One of his favourite resorts was a small fresh-water lake in the vicinity of the city, which presented a frozen sheet of many acres; and was thronged by the younger part of the population, for the amusement of skating. As the Prince was unskilled in that exercise, he would sit in a chair fixed on runners, which was pushed forward with great velocity by a skating attendant, while a crowd of officers environed

him, and the youthful multitude made the air ring with their shouts for Prince William-Henry. It was an animating scene, in the bright sunny winter-days, so common in that climate, and probably it still retains a place in his Majesty's memory.

"While the Prince was thus enjoying himself in the city of New York, a daring plan was formed, by some adventurous partisans of the revolutionary army, to pounce upon him, and carry him off from the very midst of his friends and guards. The deviser of this plan was Colonel Ogden, a gallant officer, who had served with great bravery in the revolutionary army from the very commencement of the war, and whose regiment at that time was stationed in the province (now state) of New Jersey.

"The present statement is drawn up from documents still preserved by the family of Colonel Ogden, a copy of which has been obtained from one of his sons. The Prince, at the time, was living on shore, with Admiral Digby, in quarters slightly guarded, more for form than security, no particular danger being apprehended. The project of Colonel Ogden was to land secretly on a stormy night, with a small but resolute force, to surprise and carry off the Prince and the Admiral to the boats, and to make for the Jersey shore. The plan was submitted to General Washington, who sanctioned it, under the idea that the possession of the person of the Prince would facilitate an adjustment of affairs with the mother country, and a recognition of the United States as an independent nation.

"The following is a copy of the letter of General Washington to Colonel Ogden on the occasion. The whole of the original is in the handwriting of the General:—

‘ To Colonel Ogden, of the 1st Jersey Regiment.

SIR,—The spirit of enterprise so conspicuous in your plan for surprising in their quarters, and bringing off, the Prince William-Henry and Admiral Digby, merits applause ; and you have my authority to make the attempt in any manner, and at such a time, as your judgment shall direct.

‘ I am fully persuaded, that it is unnecessary to caution you against offering insult or indignity to the persons of the Prince or Admiral, should you be so fortunate as to capture them ; but it may not be amiss to press the propriety of a proper line of conduct upon the party you command.

‘ In case of success, you will, as soon as you get them to a place of safety, treat them with all possible respect ; but you are to delay no time in conveying them to Congress, and reporting your proceedings, with a copy of these orders.

‘ Given at Morris Town, this 28th day of March, 1782.

‘ G. WASHINGTON.

‘ *Note.*—Take care not to touch upon the ground which is agreed to be neutral—viz., from Raway to Newark, and four miles back.’

“ Before relating the particulars of this plan, it may be expedient to state, that the city of New York is situated on the point of an island which advances into the centre of a capacious bay. A narrow arm of the sea, vulgarly called the East River, separates it on the left from Long or Nassau Island ; and the Hudson, commonly called the North River, separates it from the state of New Jersey. The British army was in possession of the city, and was strengthened by a fleet ; but the opposite bank of the Hudson, which is about two miles wide, was under the power of Congress, and the revolutionary army was stationed at no great distance in New Jersey, in a winter encampment of wooden huts.

“ The party that should undertake this enterprise would have to embark in boats from the Jersey shore : and it was essential that the whole affair should be accomplished between sun and sun.

“ The following is the plan intended to be observed, copied literally from the original, in the handwriting of Colonel Ogden :—

“ It will be necessary to have four whale-boats, (which can be procured without cause for suspicion); they must be well manned by their respective crews, including guides, &c.; besides these, one captain, one subaltern, three sergeants, and thirty-six men, with whom the boats can row with ease.—N. B. It is known where the boats are, and that they can be collected without suspicion, with their oars-men; and it is taken for granted the owners will not object; though, for fear of giving the least cause of alarm, nothing has as yet been said to them.

“ The time of embarkation must be the first wet night after we are prepared. The place is not yet agreed on, as it will be necessary to consult those skilled in the tides, previous to determining, which must be put off until we are as nearly prepared as possible, for fear of inferences being drawn from our inquiries. We must, however, set off from such part of the Jersey shore as will give us time to be in the city by half-past nine. The men must be embarked in the order of debarkation.

“ The Prince quarters in Hanover-square, and has two sentinels from the 40th British regiment, that are quartered in Lord Stirling’s old quarters in Broad-street, 200 yards from the scene of action. The main guard, consisting of a captain and forty men, is posted at the City Hall—a sergeant and twelve, at the head of the old slip—a sergeant and twelve, opposite the coffeehouse :

these are the troops we may be in danger from, and must be guarded against. The place of landing, at Coenties Market, between the two sergeants' guards, at the head of the old slip, and opposite the coffeehouse.

“ The order of debarkation to agree with the mode of attack, as follows :—

“ First—Two men with a guide, seconded by two others, for the purpose of seizing the sentinels: these men to be armed with naked bayonets, and dressed in sailors' habits: they are not to wait for any thing, but immediately execute their orders.

“ Second—Eight men, including guides, with myself, preceded by two men with each a crow-bar, and two with each an axe—these for the purpose of forcing the doors, should they be fast—and followed by four men, entering the house, and seizing the young Prince, the Admiral, the young noblemen, aides, &c.

“ Third—A captain and eighteen to follow briskly, form, and defend the house, until the business is finished, and retreat a half gun-shot in our rear.

“ Fourth—A subaltern and fourteen, with half of the remaining boat's crew, to form on the right and left of the boats, and defend them until we return: the remainder of the crews to hold the boats in the best possible position for embarking.

“ Necessary—Two crow-bars, two axes, four dark lanterns, and four large oil-cloths.

“ The manner of returning as follows :—

“ Six men with guns and bayonets, with those unemployed in carrying off the prisoners, to precede those engaged in that business, followed by the captain (joined by the four men from the sentry) at a half gun-shot distance, who are to halt and give a front to the

enemy, until the whole are embarked in the following order :

“ First—The prisoners, with those preceding them.

“ Second—The guides and boatmen.

“ Third—The subalterns and fourteen.

“ Fourth—The rear.”

Such was the daring plan laid for the capture of the Prince, and which, even if not fully successful, might have placed his Royal Highness in a most perilous predicament. It appears, however, from a fragment of a letter addressed by General Washington to Colonel Ogden, and apparently written almost immediately after the preceding one, that some inkling of the design had reached Sir Henry Clinton, then in New York, and commander-in-chief of the British forces. General Washington communicates, in his letter, the following paragraph from a secret despatch, dated March 23d, which he had just received from some emissary in New York:—

“ Great seem to be their apprehension here. About a fortnight ago a great number of flat boats were discovered by a sentinel from the bank of the river (Hudson’s), which are said to have been intended to fire the suburbs, and in the height of the conflagration to make a descent on the lower part of the city, and wrest from our embraces his Excellency Sir H. Clinton, Prince William-Henry, and several other illustrious personages, since which great precautions have been taken for the security of those gentlemen, by augmenting the guards, and to render their persons as little exposed as possible.”

In another letter, dated Newburgh, April 2d, 1782, General Washington observes—“ After I wrote to you from Morris Town, I received information that the

sentries at the door of Sir Henry Clinton were doubled at eight o'clock every night, from an apprehension of an attempt to surprise him in them. If this be true, it is more than probable the same precaution extends to *other* personages in the city of New York, a circumstance I thought it proper for you to be advised of."

This intelligence, of the awakened vigilance and precautionary measures of the British commander, effectually disconcerted the plans of Colonel Ogden, and his Royal Highness remained unmolested in his quarters until the sailing of the squadron.

In whatever light an American moralist may chuse to consider this project, there are few, it is to be hoped, in the old world, who will regard it as worthy of record, much less of imitation; and none who know the genuine character of Washington will seek an apology in the midnight seizure and murder of the Prince D'Enghein. It is true, Washington instructed the contriver of this visionary scheme to treat the captives with respect; but, if he had not known the true character of his followers, he would not have deemed it necessary to give such directions; and, under every circumstance, it would have been much more magnanimous, if he had spurned the author and his plan with indignation. •

The conduct of the American general will appear still more strange, when it is considered that he was, at this very time, in communication with Admiral Digby, who informed him, upon authority, that consultations were then going on in Europe, with an assured prospect of bringing the war to a satisfactory conclusion. If Washington thought that the contrivance which he sanctioned, would have procured better terms than those which America ultimately obtained, the motives from which he

acted, though justifiable by the rules of warfare, may all be resolved into the hopes of exacting a heavy ransom. What a noble contrast to this transaction does the correspondence of the brave Crillon and the gallant Eliot exhibit !

The flag of Admiral Digby being now struck on board the *Prince George*, that ship was recommissioned; and James Williams, the former first lieutenant of her, appointed to the command. He was a native of Devonshire, and had risen through all the grades of service from before the mast. Admiral Digby, when captain of the *Ramillies*, observing his steadiness, sobriety, and ability, made him first a master, and next a lieutenant; in which capacity he bore a considerable part in the nautical instruction of Prince William-Henry. The gallant admiral, Sir Richard Goodwin Keats, was second lieutenant on board the *Prince George* all the time that his Royal Highness belonged to that ship. He was in every respect, except that of common seamanship, a very superior character to Mr. Williams, whose want of a liberal education might be discerned in his conversation.

The father of Sir Richard Keats was a clergyman, and master of the grammar-school at Tiverton; in which seminary, perhaps the most celebrated in that part of the kingdom, the son was brought up till he went to sea.

Shortly after his arrival at New York, he was appointed to the command of the *Bonetta* sloop of war, on that station; in which he did eminent service by his activity, as long as the war lasted. The *Prince George* was now attached to Sir Samuel Hood's fleet, with which she went to the West Indies, and acted a distinguished part in the great battle of the 12th of April, 1782; when Admiral

Rodney closed his glorious professional career by the defeat and capture of the Comte de Grasse.

This grand victory is well known to have been achieved by the breaking the enemy's line, which manœuvre was now, for the first time, carried into effect. As, however, attempts have been made to deprive Admiral Rodney of the honour of this capital improvement in naval tactics, it may be worth while to say something on the subject.

The claimant set up in opposition to the gallant officer, is Mr. John Clerk, of Eldin, the author of an "Essay on Naval Tactics."

The Edinburgh Reviewers, in a long critique on this volume, not content with eulogizing their countryman's scientific talents, had the temerity to throw out reflections upon the highest characters in the British navy. In their Number for July, 1805, not three months before the battle of Trafalgar, the reviewers closed their article on the work of Mr. Clerk with these invidious questions :

"When peerages and pensions are voted with a prudent liberality to every admiral who leads British seamen into battle, is it not humiliating to consider, that the great inventor of naval tactics has received no tribute of national approbation or applause? While the humblest of his disciples, the most mechanical interpreter of his instructions, is elevated to the highest pinnacle of popularity and fortune, is it not unaccountable, that their acknowledged preceptor should be permitted to fall into neglect and oblivion, and to grow old, without being visited by one ray of public acknowledgment or distinction?"

This claim brought on a controversy, in which other names were introduced, particularly Sir Charles Douglas and Lord Cranstoun, who were said, without any foun-

dation, to have suggested the manœuvre of cutting the line, which Admiral Rodney so successfully executed.

In direct contradiction to all these laboured efforts to lessen the fame of the noble veteran, then in his grave, let us take the evidence of an unprofessional and unbiassed witness. The late Richard Cumberland, in his entertaining memoirs, says, "It happened to me to be present, and sitting next to Admiral Rodney, at table, when the thought seemed first to occur to him of breaking the French line, by passing through it in the heat of action. It was at Lord George Germaine's house, at Stoneland, after dinner, when, having asked a number of questions about manœuvring of columns, and the effect of charging with them in a line of infantry, he proceeded to arrange a parcel of cherry-stones, which he had collected from the table, and, forming them as two fleets, drawn up and opposed to each other, he at once arrested our attention, which had not been very generally engaged by his preparatory inquiries, by declaring he was determined so to pierce the enemy's line of battle (arranging his manœuvre at the same time on the table), if ever it was his fortune to bring them to action.

"I dare say this passed with some as mere rhapsody, and all seemed to regard it as a very perilous and doubtful experiment; but landmen's doubts and difficulties made no impression on the admiral, who having seized the idea, held it fast, and, in his eager animated way, went on manœuvring his cherry-stones, and throwing the enemy's representatives into such utter confusion, that, already in possession of that victory, in imagination, which in reality he lived to gain, he concluded his process by swearing he would lay the French admiral's flag at his sovereign's feet—a promise which he actually

pledged to his Majesty in his closet, and faithfully and gloriously performed.

“That he carried this projected manœuvre into operation, and that the effect of it was successfully decisive, all the world knows. My friend, Sir Charles Douglas, captain of the fleet, confessed to me that he himself had been adverse to the experiment, and, in discussing it with the Admiral, had stated his objections: to these he got no other answer, but that ‘his counsel was not called for: he required obedience only—he did not want advice.’ Sir Charles also told me, that whilst this project was in operation, (the battle then raging,) his own attention being occupied by the gallant defence made by the *Glorieux* against the ships that were pouring their fire into her, upon his crying out, ‘Behold, Sir George, the Greeks and Trojans contending for the body of Patroclus!’ the Admiral, then pacing the deck in great agitation, finding that the experiment of the manœuvre, in the instance of one ship, had unavoidably miscarried, peevishly exclaimed, ‘D—— the Greeks, and d—— the Trojans! I have other things to think of!’ When, in a few minutes after, the supporting ship having led through the French line in a gallant style, turning with a smile of joy to Sir Charles Douglas, he cried out, ‘Now, my dear friend, I am at the service of your Greeks and Trojans, and the whole of Homer’s *Iliad*, or as much of it as you please; for the enemy is in confusion, and our victory is secure.’ ”

“This anecdote,” says Cumberland, “correctly as I relate it, I had from that gallant officer, Sir Charles Douglas, untimely lost to his country, whose candour scorned to rob his Admiral of one leaf of his laurels: and who, disdaining all share in this manœuvre, nay,

confessing he had objected to it, did in the most pointed and decided terms again and again repeat his honourable attestations to the courage and conduct of his commanding officer in that memorable day."

Admiral Rodney himself used to say, before his claim to the manœuvre was ever called in question, that he first conceived the idea of it in France, during a conversation at the table of the Marechal de Biron.

But, in truth, this was not the first trial of the experiment by Admiral Rodney, for, in his action with Don Juan de Langara, he tried the same experiment, as far as circumstances would allow.

Though encumbered with a large convoy, and on a lee-shore in tempestuous weather, yet when he found that it was the enemy's intention to form in line of battle, he made a disposition to pass through it, and engage to leeward, the better to prevent their escape. This was the first instance, in modern times, of a decided plan to break through the enemy's line.

Again the British commander put his theory to trial in his partial action with the French fleet under De Guichen, on the 17th of April, 1780. For this we need only adduce the evidence of De Guichen himself, who in his official despatch says, "The English Admiral manœuvred with the intention of passing through our line, and to cut off the rear guard, in which attempt he doubled one of our ships, but did not succeed in his plan."

Of his victory on the 12th of April, 1782, Admiral Rodney, however, thought little. He had a contemptuous opinion of the character and conduct of De Grasse, but always spoke in the highest terms of that of De Guichen, whom he considered as the best officer in the French service; and he looked on this opportunity of beating such a

commander with an inferior fleet, as one by which, but for the disobedience of some of his own captains, he might have gained immortal renown. Mr. Clerk, in advancing his claim to the project of cutting the line, made an assertion which was palpably false. He said that when in London in January, 1780, he communicated the naval ideas which had long been working in his imagination, to Sir George Rodney, through the medium of a friend. Now, it so happened that the Admiral was not in London either then or for some weeks preceding Christmas-eve, 1779, when he sailed from St. Helen's, and before New Year's day was clear of the Channel.

For this digression, it is presumed, no apology can be deemed necessary, since the subject affects the national honour, no less than the professional reputation of the great commander, under whom his present Majesty may be said to have gained his first laurels in a naval battle.

Prince William being desirous of a more active life than he spent at New York, requested permission of Admiral Digby to go on board the *Warwick* of fifty guns, then commanded by Captain Elphinstone, afterwards Lord Keith. The Admiral consented; and in that ship he continued for about three or four months, cruising chiefly between Long Island and the Capes of Virginia. While thus employed, Captain Elphinstone had the good fortune, off the Delaware, to capture a French frigate, a corvette, and their prize. As this piece of service was achieved under very peculiar circumstances, and was, we believe, the last in which the Prince was engaged on the American coast, we shall give Captain Elphinstone's own narrative, in his letter to Admiral Pigot, dated at sea, September 22, 1782.

“ I have the honour to inform you, that in the evening of the 11th, some strange vessels were discovered from on board his Majesty’s ships *Lion* and *Vestal*, which were chased in consequence of my signal, and occasioned our separation. On the morning of the 12th, five sail were seen from off the deck; two were to windward, whose appearance led me to think they were enemies; the three to leeward, I had every reason to believe, were his Majesty’s ships under my orders: these circumstances induced me to chase to windward. About seven in the morning I was joined by the *Bonetta* sloop. Captain Keats informed me, that the ships to windward were men-of-war, and had declined to answer the private signals which he had offered them the night before. Thus joined, we continued the chase, tacking occasionally until nine, when a third ship stood across from the eastward, shewing signals unknown to me, and firing guns. So soon as he found his signals were not answered, he changed his course, as I did my chase; this latter being the nearest and leewardmost. At twelve o’clock the chase hoisted French colours, and soon after struck. It was the *Sophie* from Bayonne to Philadelphia, with a cargo on board, armed with twenty-two nine-pounders, one hundred and four men, completely fitted for war, and quite new. • From the prisoners I learnt that the *Sophie* had parted from *L’Aigle* and *Gloire*, two French frigates, having a brig under their convoy, for America; and that the frigates had many passengers of rank on board, with a large sum of money. By this time the *Lion* and *Vestal* were at no great distance. I sent an officer to desire Captain Fooks to use every effort to gain the Delaware, and there to anchor in such a situation as would most effectually prevent the enemy from enter-

ing; and that I would follow in his Majesty's ship the instant the prisoners were shifted. At this time the wind was out of the river, blowing strong.

"On the 13th, at day-light, the enemy were seen at anchor without Cape Henlopen light-house, with his Majesty's brig *Racoon* in company, their prize. The signal was made to chase; the enemy weighed, and ran into the river. At this instant the wind shifted to the eastward, which enabled the *Warwick* and *Vestal* to weather them. Being thus cut off from the proper channel, it remained only for the French commodore to determine whether he would bring-to, and engage a superior force, or attempt finding a passage among the sand banks, called the *Shears*, where his Majesty's ships, by reason of their drawing more water, might not be able to follow them. He chose the latter, and ran up the false channel, where I did not hesitate to follow; for though the risk was great, the object was considerable. Unfortunately, neither of the King's ships had a pilot: here the enemy had an advantage, as I am well informed the pilot of the *Racoon* had not honesty enough to resist the offer of five hundred louis d'ors, and that he took charge of their ships. About twelve o'clock I was obliged to anchor, on account of shallow water, and was joined by the *Lion*, *Bonetta*, and *Sophie* prize-ship. The enemy anchored at the same time. The boats of the squadron were ordered out to sound, and the *Bonetta*, Captain *Keats*, to go ahead, and lead in the best water. In this manner we kept sailing and anchoring, as circumstances permitted, until the 15th, the enemy all this time retiring with the same precautions.

"At three in the afternoon, the signal was made to weigh; soon after the enemy were under sail, evidently

in great confusion, changing their course frequently on account of shallow water. About six in the evening, the Bonetta made the signal for being in shallow water, and very soon after to anchor immediately, which was done in four fathoms and a half. A boat then came on board to inform me, that it was impossible to advance further; however, to counterbalance this mortification, we had the satisfaction to see the largest of the enemy run aground and stick fast. I sent Mr. Lock, first lieutenant of the Warwick, with orders to Captain Fooks of the Vestal, and Captain Keats of the Bonetta, that they should run upon each quarter of the enemy, as near as possible, and attack. Mr. Lock, after having delivered my orders, was directed to take command of the Sophie, now furnished with one hundred and fifty men from the Warwick and Lion, and join the attack. In justice to these officers, I must acknowledge that my orders were put in execution with a celerity and address that does them credit. The Vestal ran aground close on the starboard quarter, the Bonetta within two hundred yards on the larboard quarter; and the third ship, placing herself under the stern, the French commodore found himself obliged to surrender, on the Vestal's beginning to fire, not having a gun to bear on any of our ships. Thus, owing to the good conduct of the captains and other officers, employed on this service, and the activity of the men, was L'Aigle of forty guns, the finest frigate ever sent forth from Europe, taken possession of, for his Majesty. She was commanded by Comte La Touche, bearing a broad pendant; an officer of great reputation, and, if I may be allowed an opinion, who made great exertions to extricate himself from his difficulties; he cut away the masts, and bored the bottom, before she struck. L'Aigle mounts twenty-

eight guns on the main deck, twenty four pounders, and twelve nine-pounders on the quarter-deck and forecastle; with upwards of six hundred men on board. The Baron Virminil, commander-in-chief of the French army, Monsieur de Montmorency, Duke Lauzun, Vicomte de Fleury, and some other officers of rank, escaped on shore in the same boats which took away a great part of their treasure; but two small casks, and two boxes, have fallen into our hands: the *Gloire*, drawing less water than *L'Aigle*, got up the river. So soon as the King's ships were got off the ground, and in safety, every body was employed to save the prize, which, with much labour, under the management of Captain Fooks, was effected on the 17th. On the 20th, in running down the bay, I observed two brigs, which had been prevented from getting up the river, in the act of landing their cargoes. I ordered the *Vestal* to dislodge the people on board, and send the boats to burn them, which was done."

Soon after the return of the *Warwick* to Sandy Hook, Admiral Sir Samuel Hood arrived there from the West Indies, in order to intercept the Marquess de Vaudreuil, who then lay at Boston ready to start for Cape François, in the island of St. Domingo.

Pursuant to his Majesty's express injunction, transmitted to Admiral Digby, his Royal Highness Prince William-Henry was then placed under the immediate care of Sir Samuel Hood in the *Barfleur*; partly, perhaps, to avoid a repetition of the nefarious attempt upon his person, and partly for his further improvement in naval tactics.

Meanwhile, a change of measures in Europe had produced a mutual inclination to peace, on which General Carleton and Admiral Digby transmitted the

intelligence to General Washington in the following letter :

“ SIR,

“ August 2, 1782.

“ The pacific disposition of the Parliament and people of England towards the Thirteen Provinces, has already been communicated to you, and the resolution of the House of Commons, of the 27th of February last, has been placed in your Excellency's hands, and intimations given at the same time that further pacific measures were likely to follow. Since which, until the present time, we had no direct communications from England ; but a mail is now arrived, which brings us very important information.

“ We are acquainted, Sir, by authority, that negociations for a general peace have already commenced at Paris ; and that Mr. Grenville is invested with full powers to treat with all parties at war, and is now at Paris in the execution of his commission.

“ And we are further, Sir, made acquainted, that his Majesty, in order to remove all obstacles to that peace which he so ardently wished to restore, has commanded his Ministers to direct Mr. Grenville, that the Independency of the Thirteen Provinces should be proposed by him, in the first instance, instead of making it a condition of a general treaty ; however, not without the highest confidence, that the Loyalists shall be restored to their possessions, or a full compensation made them for whatever confiscations may have taken place.

“ With respect to Mr. Laurens, we are to acquaint you, that he has been enlarged, and discharged from all engagements, without any condition whatever ; after which, he declared, of his own accord, that he considered Lord Cornwallis as freed from his parole. Upon this point, we are to desire your Excellency's sentiments, or those of Congress.

“ We are further acquainted, that transports have been prepared in England for conveying all the American prisoners to this country, to be exchanged here ; and we are directed to urge, by every consideration of humanity, the most speedy exchange ;

a measure in which, not only the comforts, but the rights of individuals, are concerned. A proposition has already been made that all exchanges of men of the same description being exhausted, sailor and soldier shall be immediately exchanged, man for man, against each other, with this condition annexed, that your sailors shall be at liberty to serve the moment they are exchanged; and the soldiers, so received by us, shall not serve in or against the Thirteen Provinces for one year; and from this proposition we do not wish to recede.

“ We have the honour to be your Excellency’s most obedient and most humble servants,

“ GEORGE CARLETON—R. DIGBY.”

Henry Laurens, here mentioned, had been President of the Congress, and was going to Holland for the purpose of negotiating an alliance between the two republics, when the vessel, in which he sailed as a passenger, was taken; and, on the 6th of October, 1780, the Privy-Council committed him to the Tower, on a charge of treason. He remained there till the 31st of December, 1781, when he was admitted to bail, as a British subject, and afterwards was discharged.

It was at this time that the Prince and Horatio Nelson first became acquainted. That extraordinary man, then only twenty-four years of age, commanded the Albemarle frigate; and on the 11th of November, 1782, he arrived at Sandy Hook, where he found Admiral Hood in the *Barfleur*, with twelve sail of the line. When he waited on Admiral Digby, that officer said, “ You are come on a fine station for making prize-money,” “ Yes, Sir,” replied Nelson, “ but the West Indies is the station for honour.” He soon after went on board the *Barfleur*, and anxiously requested Admiral Hood to get the Albemarle placed under his orders; a favour which was not obtained

without much difficulty, so highly was Nelson's professional merit then appreciated by his superiors, and those, too, of the greatest rank and experience.

Of this first interview between the Prince and Nelson, Dr. Clarke, now canon of Windsor, was favoured with the following account by his Royal Highness, then Duke of Clarence, in a conversation at Bushy Park.

"I was then a midshipman on board the *Barfleur*, lying in the Narrows off Staten Island, and had the watch on deck; when Captain Nelson of the *Albemarle* came in his barge alongside. He appeared to be the merest boy of a Captain I ever beheld, and his dress was worthy of attention. He had on a full-laced uniform, his lank unpowdered hair was tied in a stiff Hessian tail of an extraordinary length: the old-fashioned flaps of his waistcoat, added to the general quaintness of his figure, produced an appearance which particularly attracted my notice, for I had never seen any thing like it before, nor could I imagine who he was, nor what he came about. My doubts were, however, removed, when Lord Hood introduced me to him. There was something irresistibly pleasing in his address and conversation; and an enthusiasm, when speaking on professional subjects, that shewed he was no common being. Nelson, after this, went with us to the West Indies, and served under Lord Hood's flag, during his indefatigable cruise off Cape François. Throughout the whole of the American war, the height of Nelson's ambition was to command a line-of-battle ship: as for prize-money, it never entered his thoughts; he had always in view the character of his maternal uncle. I found him warmly attached to my Father, and singularly humane. He had the honour of the King's service, and the independence of the British



HORATIO NELSON, A SCOTTISH NELSON

Nelson Bronte

navy, particularly at heart, and his mind glowed with this idea as much when he was simply Captain of the *Albemarle*, and had obtained none of the honours of his country, as when he was afterwards decorated with so much well-earned distinction."

On the 22d of November, Admiral Hood sailed from Sandy Hook for the West Indies, immediately on which, the French fleet under the Marquis de Vaudreuil left Boston for Cape François: finding, however, that the English Admiral had taken his station off that place to intercept him, he altered his course, pushed through the Mona passage, and took shelter in Porto Cavallo, on the coast of the Caraccas.

The British fleet then entered Port Royal in the island of Jamaica, where it remained during the winter, to the great joy of the inhabitants, who received the Prince with every demonstrable testimony of affection and respect. His friend Nelson, writing home to Captain Locker on the 25th of February, 1783, says:

"My situation in Lord Hood's fleet must be in the highest degree flattering to any young man; he treats me as if I were his son, and will, I am convinced, give me any thing I can ask of him. Nor is my situation with Prince William less flattering. Lord Hood was so kind as to tell him, (indeed, I cannot make use of expressions strong enough to describe what I felt,) that if he wished to ask questions relative to naval tactics, I could give him as much information as any officer in the fleet. He will be, I am certain, an ornament to our service. He is a seaman, which you could hardly suppose, with every other qualification you may expect from him; but he will be a disciplinarian, and a strong one. A vast deal of notice has been taken of him at Jamaica; he

has been addressed by the Council, and the House of Assembly was to address him the day after I sailed. He has his levees at Spanish Town; they are all highly delighted with him: with the best temper, and great good sense, he cannot fail of being pleasing to every one."

During the stay of his Royal Highness in Jamaica, the planters and merchants raised a body of cavalry, for the express purpose of attending his person as a guard of honour. This corps was called Prince William-Henry's regiment. But that which had been for some time clearly foreseen, now took place.

On the 30th of November, 1782, the preliminaries of peace between the belligerent powers were signed at Paris; and soon after, hostilities entirely ceased on all sides.

Thus ended a war, marked with more than common asperity, and which had been carried on, for above seven years, on the part of Britain, at an immense expense of blood and treasure, against four powers, only one of whom gained anything by the contest. France was repaid for her treachery, in meddling with a concern which no way affected her, by a revolutionary contagion, that in a few years overthrew the monarchy, and spread destruction through all her provinces and dependencies. The primary instrument of this tremendous change was La Fayette, who, at the outset of the dispute between America and the parent country, embarked as a volunteer in the cause of the insurgents. That this was contrary to the law of nations, could not admit of a doubt; yet, when the late Earl of Carlisle went to America, as the head of a commission empowered to bring about a cessation of hostilities, La Fayette, in the true spirit of Quixotism, sent his lordship a challenge. The letters which passed on this

strange occasion are sufficiently curious and characteristic to deserve a place in this memoir.

Both parties were young men, it is true ; but which acted with most dignity, will appear from the epistles. That of the Frenchman is couched in the ancient style of chivalry, when the self-devoted knight entered the lists, armed at all points, to defend the insulted honour and title of his sovereign.

“ TO THE EARL OF CARLISLE,

“ I did not imagine, my Lord, that I ever should have had any transactions but with your generals, and expected not the honour of seeing them, but at the head of the armies which they respectively command. Your letter of the 26th of August, to the Congress of the United States, and the terms of insult, respecting my country, to which you have signed your name, is the sole cause of my having any thing now to settle with your Lordship. I deign not to refute the aspersion, but I desire to punish it. It is from you, as chief of the commission, that I demand a reparation as public as hath been the offence, and which must give the LIE to the expression you have used. I should not have delayed this demand so long, if your letter had reached me sooner : obliged to be absent a few days, I hope to find your answer at my return. M. Guimot, a French officer, will settle, on my part, the time and place of our meeting, to suit your Lordship's conveniency. I doubt not but, for the honour of his countryman, General Clinton will attend you to the field. As to me, my Lord, it is indifferent who attends you, provided that, to the glory of being a Frenchman, I join that of proving to a gentleman of your country, that no one dares to insult mine with impunity.

(Signed) “ LA FAYETTE.”

To this gasconade, the noble commissioner returned the following answer, and here the business ended :

“SIR—I have received your letter, transmitted to me from M. Guimot, and I confess I find it difficult to return a serious answer to its contents. The only one that can be expected from me, as the King’s commissioner, and which you ought to have known, is, that I do, and ever shall, consider myself solely responsible to my Country and King, and not to any individual, for my public conduct and language. As for any opinion or expressions contained in any publications issued under the commission in which I have the honour to be named, unless they are retracted in public, you may be assured I shall never, in any change of situation, be disposed to give an account of them, much less recall them, in private.

“The inquiry alluded to in the correspondence of the King’s commissioners to the Congress, I must remind you, is not of a private nature; and I conceive all national disputes will be best decided by the meeting of Admiral Byron and Count D’Estaing.”

“New York, Oct. 11, 1778.” (Signed) “CARLISLE.”

The sword of war being now sheathed, and the services of the Prince no longer necessary in the West Indies, his Royal Highness began to make his preparations for returning to England. Previous to his departure, however, he expressed a wish to make a tour round the islands. Admiral Hood very readily complied with this request, and accordingly the *Fortunée* frigate, Captain Christian, was appointed to convey his Royal Highness on this survey, with his suite, consisting of Captains Goodall, Rowley, and Merrick. During the cruise, the Prince touched at Cape François, on the French side of Hispaniola, or Saint Domingo, where his Royal Highness landed, and was received with all the military honours due to his exalted birth.

Soon after his return to Jamaica, Don Galvez, governor of the Havannah, to which he had been lately appointed, visited Cape François, from whence he despatched a fast-sailing vessel to Port Royal with a letter to Prince William-Henry. In order to explain the subject of this interesting correspondence, it is necessary to preface it with a short statement.

On the 8th of May, 1781, the province of West Florida surrendered to a large Spanish force, commanded by Don Galvez, governor of Louisiana, after he had besieged Pensacola, the capital, two months. By the terms of the capitulation, the prisoners were to remain until regularly exchanged. Some were sent to the Havannah, but the greater part were removed to Natchez, in Louisiana, on their parole. The natural impatience of men under restraint, and in such a climate, induced several of these unfortunate captives to enter into a plot for the seizure of the place, in which scheme they found means to gain the concurrence of many of the inhabitants. The design, however, was frustrated, and the most active of those concerned in it were summarily tried by a military tribunal, and condemned to death. The sentence was not put in execution when Don Galvez went to the Havannah, and from thence to Cape François, where, if Prince William had not sailed, he would have tendered this peace-offering in person. As it was, he lost no time in paying the tribute of humanity by the following letter.

Cape François, April 6, 1783.

“SIR,—The Spanish troops cantoned throughout the country, have not, as the French, had the happiness to take up their arms to salute your Royal Highness, nor that of paying you those marks of respect and consideration which are your due: it is what they will ever regret.

“I have in confinement, at Louisiana, the principal person concerned in the revolt at Natchez, with some of his accomplices. They have forfeited their parole and oath of fidelity. A council of war, founded on equitable laws, has condemned them to death, and the execution of their sentence waits only my confirmation, as governor of the colony. They are all English. Will you be pleased, Sir, to accept their pardon and their lives, in the name of the Spanish army, and of my King? It is, I trust, the greatest present that can be offered to one Prince in the name of another. Mine is generous, and will approve my conduct.

“In case your Royal Highness deigns to interest yourself for these unfortunate men, I have the honour to send enclosed an order for their being delivered the moment any vessel arrives at Louisiana communicating your pleasure. We shall consider ourselves happy, if this can be agreeable to you. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) . “B. D. GALVEZ.”

To this letter His Royal Highness sent the following answer by Captain Manley Dixon, of the Tobago sloop of war.

“*Port Royal, Jamaica, April 13, 1783.*

“SIR,—I want words to express to your Excellency my just sense of your polite letter, of the delicate manner in which you caused it to be delivered, and your generous conduct towards the unfortunate. Their pardon, which you have been pleased to grant on my account, is the most agreeable present you could have offered me, and is strongly characteristic of the bravery and gallantry of the Spanish nation. This instance increases, if possible, my opinion of your Excellency’s humanity, which has appeared on so many occasions in the course of the late war.

“Admiral Rowley is to despatch a vessel to Louisiana for the prisoners; I am convinced they will ever think of your Excellency’s clemency with gratitude; and I have sent a copy of your letter to the King my father, who will be fully sensible of your Excellency’s attention to me.

“ I request my compliments to Madame Galvez, and that you will be assured, that actions so noble as those of your Excellency will ever be remembered by,

(Signed)

“ WILLIAM HENRY.”

His Royal Highness, thinking that he could do no otherwise than visit the Havannah, embarked again on board the *Fortunéc*, on the 26th of the same month, accompanied by the Albemarle, Captain Nelson. As it was not intended that his Royal Highness should return again to Port Royal, Lord Hood soon after followed with his whole fleet, and remained off the Havannah, to wait for the Prince. His Lordship, on this occasion, sent, as a present to the Governor of the Havannah, a sirloin of beef that had been roasted, and a buttock that had been boiled, in England. On the 11th of May, Nelson was despatched to Saint Augustine, to take on board the English who had been detained there since the surrender of Florida; he then sailed for England, where he arrived only one day before the Prince, who landed at Spithead on the 26th of June, 1783.

The departure of the young hero was very much regretted by the inhabitants of Jamaica, into whose affections he had ingratiated himself by his lively manners, kindly disposition, and generous spirit. One instance out of many, of his humanity, is thus related in a letter from a naval officer, then on that station, to his friends in England.

“ The last time Lord Hood’s fleet was here, a court martial was held on Mr. Benjamin Lee, midshipman, for disrespect to a superior officer; at which Lord Hood sat as president. The determination of the court was fatal to the prisoner, and he was condemned to death. Deeply affected as the whole body of

midshipmen were at the dreadful sentence, they knew not how to obtain a mitigation of it ; since Mr. Lee was ordered for execution, while they had not time to make an appeal to the Admiralty, and despaired of a petition to Admiral Rowley. However, his Royal Highness generously stepped forth, drew up a petition, to which he was the first to set his name, and solicited the rest of the midshipmen in port to follow his example. He, then, himself carried the petition to Admiral Rowley, and, in the most pressing and urgent manner, begged the life of an unhappy brother ; in which he succeeded, and Mr. Lee is reprieved. We all acknowledge our warmest and grateful thanks to our humane, our brave and worthy Prince, who has so nobly exerted himself in preserving the life of his brother sailor."

Thus terminated, more gloriously to himself than to his country, the first period of the life of Prince William-Henry. The crown which he was destined by Providence, in the course of half a century, to wear, had, indeed, now lost one of its jewels ; but it was not a little remarkable, that he alone, of all his family, should have appeared in battle, to preserve the diadem entire.

Here we shall be excused for concluding with a singular anecdote. Mariners are much given to put faith in omens, and, just before the close of this disastrous war, they had one exactly to their humour. At the beginning of 1782, the *Atlas*, of ninety-guns, was launched at Chatham : when they came to ship her bowsprit, the figure stood so high, that it was necessary to cut away part of the globe upon his shoulders ; and that part happened to be North America. Sailors regarded this as inauspicious ; and time has not weakened their credulity.

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1783 TO 1785.

THEIR Majesties were at St. James's when the Prince arrived at Windsor: on which, a messenger was despatched to town with the welcome intelligence; and the whole Royal Family, then in England, were soon collected, forming a happy circle on the joyful occasion.

His Royal Highness had not as yet attained his eighteenth year; yet, of him it might have been said, that

“Qui mores hominum multorum vidit, et urbes:”

he had seen human life in various forms, and witnessed wonderful changes.

The piping-time of peace, however, did not repress his ardour, or induce him to seek pleasure in the lap of repose and luxury. As much at his own desire, as that of his Royal Father, the Prince made preparations for a visit to Germany.

Nelson, writing to his friend Captain Locker, on the 13th of July, says,—“On Monday or Tuesday I am to be at Windsor, to take leave of Prince William, previous to his embarkation for the Continent. Captain Merrick, a young man of Lord Hood's bringing up, is to be with him.”

On the morning of the 31st, his Royal Highness left Buckingham House for Greenwich, accompanied by his

old tutor, General Bude, and Captain Merrick. At the Hospital, the Prince was received by Sir Hugh Palliser the Governor, and conducted into the grand council-room, where he was introduced to the several officers respectively. His Royal Highness was afterwards attended by the Governor to the Painted Hall, and the other principal parts of that noble building. Having inspected the several departments of the Hospital, he was shewn, at his own request, the apartments of the officers, and those of the pensioners. About half-after twelve, the Prince embarked on board the Princess Augusta yacht, Captain George Vandeput, which fell down the river the same tide; and, on the 1st of August, arrived at Stadt, where his Royal Highness was waited upon by the Regency and citizens, with every mark of respect. The next day he departed for Hanover, and there met his brother, Frederick, the secular Bishop of Osnaburg, whom he had not seen for nearly three years.

After a short stay at Hanover, Prince William, under the travelling name of Lord Fielding, visited Berlin, with his brother; and at Potsdam they had an interview with the great Frederick; who, notwithstanding his advanced age, still retained his mental energies and bodily activity. The old king had, for some time, been employing himself on two objects, neither of which, at an earlier period of his life, occupied much of his attention. These were agriculture and commerce. "The former," he said, "while it furnished profitable employment for the soldier in peace, tended to enrich their superiors, and benefited the nation—the latter promoted industry, and gave encouragement to the spirit of enterprise." At this time Frederick had the gratification of seeing the fruits of his pacific conduct, so different from that career in which he

nad gained false glory, and the equivocal appellation of the Great.

The maritime provinces were no less flourishing than the interior; and, in the Prussian ports, which, some years before, had scarcely any shipping, there were above fifteen hundred vessels, which gave employment to fifteen thousand men. These solid improvements drew from the veteran monarch the confession, that wars are terrible, and, at the best, nothing but a waste of blood. Yet he still kept up his annual reviews on an extensive scale, in Silesia; whither he was attended by the two English Princes, and their uncle, the Duke of Brunswick.

They repeated their visit on the same occasion, the next year. But the appearance of the army, and their conduct, gave so little satisfaction to the king, that, after his return to Potsdam, he wrote the following angry letter to the commander-in-chief:—

“ MY DEAR GENERAL VON TAUENZEIN,

“ I WILL herewith repeat with my pen, what I mentioned to you when I was in Silesia—that my army there has never been in such bad discipline as it is at present. If I were to make shoemakers and tailors generals, the regiment could not be worse. The regiment of Tadden’s is not to be compared to the most insignificant land-battalion of a Prussian army. Rolkirch and Schwartz are not worth much, neither. Zarembo is in such disorder, that I intend to send one of the officers of my own regiment to bring it in order again. The fellows in Von Erlach’s regiment, are so spoiled by smuggling, that they have not the appearance of soldiers. Keller’s is like unto a parcel of rough unmannerly boors. Hager’s has a miserable commander; and your regiment is very middling. It is only with Count Von Anhalt, Wendessein, and Heinrich, I can be satisfied. See—so are the details. I will now describe the manœuvres.

“ Schwartz makes the unpardonable mistake near Neisse not to cover sufficiently the heights on the left wing—if it had been in earnest, the battle would have been lost.

“ Erlach, by Breslaw, instead of covering the army, by placing troops on the heights, marched with his division, like cabbages and turnips, in defile; so that, if it had been in earnest, the cavalry of the enemy would have cut the infantry to pieces, and the battle have been lost.

“ I don't intend to lose battles through the laziness of my Generals; therefore, I herewith command you, that, in case I am alive next year, you march with the army between Breslaw and Olaw; and, four days before I come to the camp, that you manœuvre with the ignorant Generals, and shew them their duty.”

The winter being exceedingly severe, not only in Germany, but all over the Continent, prevented the royal traveller from proceeding, as he intended, into Switzerland and Italy. His time, therefore, was chiefly divided between Brunswick, Hanover, and Osnaburg; with which last city he was particularly pleased, on account of its handsome structures, and the liberal spirit and activity of the inhabitants. At Lunenburg, he applied to the study of the German system of military tactics, both in principle and practice, as essentially necessary to a thorough knowledge of the science of war. When the spring opened, his Royal Highness left Hanover for Gottingen; where he attended the lectures of Michaelis, and one or two other professors. From thence he went to Cassel, and there met a welcome reception from the Electoral family, to whom he was nearly related, and who were then in deep affliction for the recent loss of the eldest son of the Hereditary Prince.

After crossing the Rhine at Manheim, the Prince and his friends pursued their course, in the direction of that

river, to Basle ; thence, to Neufchatel, Lausanne, and Geneva. The wonders of Switzerland took up nearly six weeks in exploring ; and the summer being now advanced, the party descended into the Valteline ; and, after traversing part of Savoy, Piedmont, and the Milanese territory, re-entered Germany, through the mountainous region of the Tyrol. From Inspruck, they directed their course to Munich ; and, having crossed the Danube at Passaw, followed that river to Ratisbon, from whence they hastened to Prague, near which city, a grand Imperial review was appointed to be held in the beginning of September.

Here they were met by the Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, who, under the travelling title of Count Hoya, arrived at the Imperial camp of Hautplatein. Both Princes were received with extraordinary marks of distinction by the Emperor Joseph ; who, among other entertainments, gave a masked ball at Prague, upon a more splendid and extended scale than had ever been known in that city. There was something so very fascinating in the manners and conversation of this celebrated sovereign, that they who approached him, whatever might have been their previous sentiments of his public conduct, departed with an impression in his favour, and an inclination to excuse his capricious ambition. He was affable, obliging, and perfectly free from that reserve and haughtiness which some potentates assume on account of their birth, and even consider as necessary to their dignity. It was his opinion, that the vanity and ignorance of many princes were generally owing to the forms in which they were entrenched, and to their being deprived of the advantages possessed by persons in a lower station—that of a free interchange of sentiment.

One evening, at the Countess of Walstein's, the Emperor took occasion to turn the discourse upon the restrictions to which princes were subjected, by forms and prescriptive rules originating in the pride of rank. His Majesty enumerated some ludicrous and remarkable instances of the inconveniences of etiquette, which he had observed at certain courts. One person present hinted at the effectual means the Emperor himself had used, to banish every inconveniency of that kind from the Court of Vienna. To which he replied, "It would be hard indeed, if, because I have the ill fortune to be an Emperor, I should be deprived of the pleasures of social life, which are so much to my taste. All the grimace and parade to which people in my situation are accustomed from infancy, have not made me so vain as to imagine that I am in any essential quality superior to other men; and if I had any tendency to such an opinion, the surest way to get rid of it is the method I take of mixing in society, where I have daily opportunities of finding myself inferior in talents to those I meet with. Conscious of this, it would afford me no enjoyment to assume airs of a superiority which I feel does not exist. I endeavour, therefore, to please and be pleased; and, as much as the inconveniency of my situation will permit, to enjoy the blessings of society like other persons; convinced that the man who is secluded from these pleasures, and raises his mind above friendship, does it at the expense of his personal happiness, by depriving himself of the means of acquiring knowledge."

Though ambitious in a high degree, the Emperor had no personal pride, nor any fondness for servile adulation. To the magistrates of Buda, in Hungary, who requested his permission to erect a statue of him in the

public square of their city, he returned this answer :—
“ When all prejudices are laid aside, and when narrow systems shall have given place to sounder notions ; when every individual shall be enabled, by his industry, to contribute with pleasure to the necessities of the state ; when agriculture shall flourish, and prosperity universally prevail ; when the laws shall have their full force, and the arts become general ; when science shall have enlightened men’s minds, and emulation shall give life to every class of citizens ; then, and not till then, let a statue be raised to me ; but not now, when the city of Buda has received no extraordinary advantages from me, except in the circulation of its products, which is alike beneficial to commerce throughout the Empire.”

Joseph rendered a more effectual service to the Hungarians at this time, by measures for their improvement, than by giving them a statue. After refusing their request, he issued an edict for the total abolition of vassalage throughout Hungary ; and he also ordered, that the very name of such servitude, or rather slavery, should be for ever disused.

By this edict, every man was at liberty to marry ; to learn any art ; to work for himself ; to sell, mortgage, exchange, and alienate his property, only sending to his lord the accustomed fees ; in short, every vassal throughout the kingdom was restored to the full and perfect enjoyment of personal freedom, without any restriction.

The liberal spirit which dictated this reform, appears in the following declaration of the august author :—
“ I not only would unshackle the mind from a base superstition which enervates it, but I wish to direct its active powers to national services. Let the gloomy priest therefore be driven from his cloister, to benefit society by

his talents ; and let the most unenlightened monastics, who have been fettered by bigotry, and immured in darkness, come abroad to the light of day. Artisans, manufacturers, and agriculturists uphold a state ; while a multitude of religious drones encumber the land, and oppress its resources."

Such acts, with the exertions he made to promote industry throughout all his dominions, and to encourage trade, by establishing commercial companies on the Danube, at Trieste, and Ostend, would have immortalized Joseph, as an example to all succeeding monarchs, had the rest of his conduct been equal. But though he possessed many estimable qualities, which might have been serviceable to his country, and to mankind in general, he was, after all, a very weak prince ; and while perhaps he really aimed at doing good, and rendering himself beloved, he did mischief, and created enemies. It has been truly said, that there is but a step from the sublime to the ridiculous. The Emperor Joseph, in his conduct, exemplified the observation to the fullest extent. At the same time that he was employed in drawing up edicts for the encouragement of manufactures, he published others interdicting coffins, and ordering that all the dead, under a certain rank, should be buried in sacks. Another decree prohibited the use of stays, as an article of female dress ; and the Imperial College of Physicians at Vienna was commanded to print and circulate a dissertation, for the better information of parents and teachers, who wished to preserve a handsome shape for their children and pupils.

These ordinances gave general dissatisfaction, and were treated with contempt. Young ladies chose rather to sacrifice their health, than be out of the fashion ; and

the matrons thought, not unreasonably, that his Imperial Majesty might have been better employed than in holding councils upon corsets and petticoats.

The edict against coffins raised a still more furious opposition; and the populace, in most parts of the Austrian dominions, proved too strong for the civil authorities, though supported by a military force. In consequence of this, the Emperor wrote a laconic proclamation, revoking the former decree, and permitting the dead to be buried in the old way. The ordinance which affected the ladies, fell silently into oblivion, as soon as it was issued; and the learned College was even saved the trouble of enforcing it by their recommendation.

The next objects of Joseph's displeasure were the free-masons; against whom he issued this curious proclamation:—

“ WHEREAS, in all well-regulated states, nothing should, within a certain description, be permitted to subsist, without being confined to some particular rule and order, I have thought it necessary to enjoin what follows :

The assemblies of men called Free-masons, of whose secret I am as completely ignorant, as I have at all times been averse to inquire into their mysteries, are daily increasing, even in the smallest towns. Such meetings, left entirely to the discretion of their members, and subject to no kind of direction, may occasion many excesses, equally injurious to religion and good morals; as also induce the superiors, in consequence of a fanatical fellowship, to deviate from the strict path of rectitude, in regard to those who are their dependants, but not initiated into the mysteries of their order; and, in fine, occasion great and needless expenses. Already have other powers forbidden all such assemblies; already have the members been brought to

exemplary punishments, because their secrets were not universally known. Although I am myself very imperfectly in the confidence, it is enough for me to know that some good and benevolent acts have been performed by the masonic lodges, to provide in their favour better than has been done in other countries; therefore, although I am a stranger to their constitution, and to what is transacted at their meetings, these shall, nevertheless, be countenanced, under the patronage of the state, as long as they shall do good; therefore, the free-masons shall enjoy a formal toleration, upon their submitting to such regulations as shall be prescribed by me."

This fulmination against a social and charitable institution, of the nature of which the Emperor professed he knew nothing, gave little trouble to the brothers of the mystic order in the Austrian dominions, and their lodges continued to be held, as if no such edict had appeared. In Bavaria, however, the case was very different; for the Elector there put down all the lodges without reserve, and not only compelled every member of the fraternity to confess his being such, but to renounce the order upon oath, on penalty of fine and imprisonment. One motive for these denunciations of a harmless institution, was, the hatred which the Elector, and his friend the Emperor, had conceived towards Frederick the Great, who patronized free-masonry, and was the terror of his neighbours. The Emperor and Elector had formed a coalition for their mutual aggrandisement, by an exchange of territory, at the expense of the weaker states. The Prussian monarch, though verging on the grave, had his wits about him, and sent orders to his ambassador, to tell Joseph, that, as he did not wish for any increase of territory himself, he would take care that others should not have too much. This

put an end to the scheme for the present ; but the sagacious Frederick, well knowing the ambitious spirit of Joseph, determined upon a plan to counteract any further designs he might have, to the injury of the minor states of the Empire. This plan he communicated to the Prince Bishop of Osnaburg, who lost no time in transmitting the same to the British court, where it underwent a long consideration. Full powers were then given to his Royal Highness to conclude a treaty with the King of Prussia, and other princes, on behalf of his Britannic Majesty, as Elector of Hanover. This confederation for the security of the Germanic constitution against all innovations, soon received an accession of associates ; among whom were the Electors of Saxony and Mentz, the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, the Dukes of Brunswick, Saxe Weimar, Saxe Gotha, Deux Ponts, and the Prince of Anhalt.

The Emperor, on being apprised of the combination that was forming, to restrain him within the due limits prescribed by the Golden Bull, and other chartularies, made loud complaints, not unaccompanied with threats of a warlike nature. He endeavoured, also, to excite the spirit of jealousy among the courts that had not as yet formally given their assent to the treaty ; but, as he had on former occasions betrayed a disposition unfavourable to the Germanic liberties, his attempt to bring about a counter-confederation failed in every quarter.

In this defeat of the Imperial cabinet, the late Duke of York, though then only twenty-two years of age, had a principal concern ; and in two visits to Vienna, he succeeded in bringing the Emperor so far to reason, that the scheme of spoliation, negotiated between him and the Elector of Bavaria, was laid aside.

The restless spirit of Joseph now took another direction, and one still worse for his reputation. Taking advantage of the divisions which prevailed in Holland, and the impoverished state of the republic by the late war, the Emperor fancied he might be able to open a channel of commerce, and raise Antwerp to its former greatness. Accordingly, he demanded a free navigation of the Scheldt; a free trade to the East and West Indies; and the demolition of the Dutch fortresses on the above river. These requisitions were resisted, as contrary to the treaty of Munster. Joseph, however, persisted; and, by his order, an attempt was made to force a passage; of which, however, previous notice was given to the States General; signifying also, that his Imperial Majesty should look upon any obstruction offered to his vessel, as a declaration of war.

On the 8th of October, 1784, the brig *Louisa*, Captain Van Ingheim, sailed from Antwerp for Dunkirk. Volbergen, who commanded the Dutch ships of war stationed in the river, gave notice to the Austrian captain that he should be obliged to stop his proceeding any further; to which he received for answer, "That the Emperor had decreed the Scheldt open, and had ordered him to pass down it, which he intended to do, as in duty bound."

The Dutch commander, after renewing his friendly remonstrances to no purpose, fired a gun without a shot; but the Austrian still pursuing his way, a ball was fired; to which no respect being paid, it was followed by a whole broadside, and the Imperial flag was struck. The captain of the Austrian vessel was then politely told that he might return to Antwerp; but this offer he refused to accept, without orders from his court.

The Emperor was now at Brussels, whither he had gone post-haste, immediately after parting from the two English Princes at Prague.

The Imperial ambassador at the Hague was now recalled; all the troops in Austrian Flanders were put in motion; and extraordinary exertions were made in completing the works at Ostend. On the other hand, the Dutch strengthened their forces on the frontiers, and even cut some of the dykes between Utrecht and Lillo, by which all that part of the country was laid under water. These preparations, however, after spreading alarm throughout Europe, produced only a bloodless war of manifestoes; and the Emperor, finding that he should have more than the Dutch to contend with, gave up the contest, and fell upon his favourite object, the reform of the religious houses in the Netherlands, and the correction of ecclesiastical abuses in every part of his dominions. In Hungary, a remarkable circumstance occurred; and, as being characteristic of this paradoxical man, it deserves insertion. Cardinal Migazzy was bishop of Waitzen in that kingdom, and, at the same time, archbishop of Vienna. The Emperor, thinking that all this was too much for one man, insisted on his resigning the Hungarian bishopric. The Aulic chamber thought proper to interfere in favour of the cardinal.

“In the first place,” say the members of the Aulic chamber, in their expostulation, “her Imperial Majesty, our late Queen Maria Theresa, of glorious memory, conferred the bishopric on the cardinal, for him to enjoy during his natural life, and the pope confirmed it by his bull.”

Answer.—“My predecessors were at liberty to act as they thought fit; so am I. The bull then had a real object, which no longer exists.”

Secondly.—“The cardinal, during his embassy to Spain, was obliged to contract very heavy debts, to the great detriment of his family’s fortune.”

Answer.—“Every body knows, that neither the cardinal, nor any of his family, ever had any fortune to lose.”

Thirdly.—“The cardinal has laid out six hundred thousand florins, in repairing the episcopal palace, and beautifying the city.”

Answer.—“I have not examined whether the cardinal has actually laid out the stated sum; but this I know; that his bishopric has brought him in above two millions of florins a year.”

Fourthly.—“The cardinal is a magnate, or grandee, of Hungary, and cannot be deprived of his bishopric, without being first brought to a trial.”

Answer.—“And I am King of Hungary, and know how I am to act with my magnates.”

Fifthly.—“The council of Trent, it is true, expressly forbids any prelate holding two bishoprics *in commendam*; but there is an exception, made in favour of illustrious personages, and men of eminent learning.”

Answer.—“The cardinal has no right to be comprised amongst those for whom the exception is made: it regards only persons of high birth, and particularly the sons of sovereigns. As for the distinguished learning of the cardinal, I refer it to his diocesans within the archbishopric of Vienna.”

The Emperor Joseph the Second, like Charles the Fifth, was much in the habit of travelling about *incognito*, which produced many remarkable adventures.

A young Neapolitan being desirous of a military employment, which he could not obtain in his own country,

resolved to try his fortune in Austria. Accordingly, he set out, furnished with powerful letters of recommendation. On entering Germany, he put up at an obscure inn, where three travellers were at supper. His request to make one of the party was readily granted ; and the evening passed very agreeably. In the course of conversation, the Italian related his history, and the object of his journey. One of the company, after hearing him, very tranquilly said, " I believe you have taken a long journey, without any chance of success—at a time when there is a general peace, and numbers of young men of quality are out of employment." The Neapolitan admitted the force of the remark ; but said, he relied on his letters of recommendation, and should proceed, though his hopes were feeble. The Austrian gentleman then said, " Ay, well ; as you are not to be turned from your project, I will give you a letter, which may be added to those you already have, addressed to the Mareschal Lascy."

The young adventurer received the letter, and pursued his route. Upon his arrival at Vienna, he presented himself to General Lascy, and laid before his excellency all the letters, except that of the stranger.

The general, after reading the testimonials, behaved very politely, but said, he was sorry that it was out of his power to render him any service. This did not prevent the young man from attending the military levee again ; but still, though civilly treated, his suit was in vain. At length he thought of the letter which he had been favoured with on the road ; but to which he attached so little importance, that he had thrown it into his portmanteau as unworthy of notice. Having found it, he, the next day, appeared again at the minister's audience, and

presented the letter, with a suitable apology for his negligence in not having delivered it before. The mareschal, on opening it, and looking at the contents, started, looked earnestly at the applicant, and asked if he knew from whom he had received that letter. "No," said the young man, "I never saw the gentleman before, nor do I know his name now." "It was the Emperor himself, Joseph the Second; you mentioned a sub-lieutenant's commission as the object of your desire; and his Majesty orders me to appoint you a lieutenant."

This, however, was caprice and whim, rather than generosity, in which virtue Joseph fell far short of his rival, Frederick the Great; who, though somewhat of a humourist, possessed considerable sensibility, as the following anecdote proves.

A lieutenant-colonel, in the Prussian service, having been disbanded at the close of the war, importuned the King to be reinstated. Tired with the incessant solicitations of his troublesome visitor, Frederick gave orders that he should never be admitted into his presence. Some weeks elapsed, when a most severe libel appeared against the monarch. The King seldom gave himself any concern about such pasquinades; but the present one affected him to such a degree, that he offered a reward of fifty Fredericks of gold, for the discovery of the author. The day following, the lieutenant-colonel, already mentioned, demanded and obtained an audience. On being admitted, he said, "Sire, your Majesty has just promised fifty Fredericks for the discovery of the author of a recent publication. I am come to claim the recompense. Behold in me the unfortunate libeller. My life I forfeit freely; but, remember your royal pledge, and, while you punish me, transmit to my poor

wife and children the reward due to the informer." The king, struck with the sad extremity, and self-immolation, of the officer, said, "Go you instantly to the fortress of Spandau, and there await my judgment." "I obey," replied the culprit; "but the money—." "Within two hours your wife shall receive it. Take this letter, and give it to the commander; but he is not to open it till after dinner."

The lieutenant-colonel arrived at Spandau; gave himself up, as a prisoner; and, at the moment prescribed, the governor read the royal mandate, as follows:

"To the bearer I give the command of Spandau. I shall be with him in a few days. The present governor is to take the command of Berlin, as a reward for past services.

"FREDERICK."

Such were these two remarkable potentates, whose opposite characters made an impression upon the minds of our royal travellers; but with a different effect—the elder Prince being best pleased with his great namesake, and the younger with the Emperor; probably because the unreserved and familiar manner of Joseph bore a near resemblance to his own disposition.

Another personage, with whom Prince William became now acquainted, for the first time, at Prague, was Prince George of Mecklenburg, the younger brother of Queen Charlotte. As the historians of the Royal Family have taken little, if any, notice of this amiable and accomplished prince, the following particulars, it is presumed, will not be considered as out of place.

Prince George was born at Strelitz, Aug. 16, 1748; and, on the marriage of his sister, he came to England. Here

he soon acquired a knowledge of the language, and became so much attached to the country, that he volunteered his services in the navy. After devoting two years to active duty on board the fleet, illness obliged him to quit the sea, and the climate, neither of which agreed with his constitution. On his recovery, he accepted the invitation of the Empress Queen, Maria Theresa, to enter into her service; and was made a lieutenant-colonel. Soon after he joined his regiment, it was frequently remarked by the lofty-minded Austrians, that the prince was more inclined to associate with the inferior than the superior officers. This so offended the high-born pride of the younger shoots of the ancient houses, who had nothing better to boast of than their descent, that one of them, by deputation, ventured to lay a complaint before the Empress, stating, that the lieutenant-colonel forgot he was the Prince of Mecklenburg. Her Majesty, who was a woman of extraordinary penetration, cast her eye sternly upon the delegate, and said, "Does he forget that he is a lieutenant-colonel?" The officer, astounded at this question, and the emphatic style in which it was expressed, faltered out in reply, and in an altered tone, "Oh, no, Madam, it must be admitted that he is a most assiduous officer." "Well, then," said the Empress, "since he does his duty, and does not forget my service, you will please not to forget to go this instant to Marechal Lascey, and tell him, in my name, to send Prince George of Mecklenburg, this very day, the commission of a full colonel."

When the generous prince, some time afterwards, became acquainted with the reflection that had been cast upon him, he coolly said, "Perhaps the gentleman forgot that my superiors neither love nor want me; but that

among my inferiors, there are some who really esteem me, and others who stand in need of my assistance."

In a short time, he was made general of horse, and honoured with various orders. In 1780 he became brigadier-general, and inspector of the two carabineer regiments, then considered the finest in the Imperial service. In 1782, at the camp of Prague, in Bohemia, consisting of fifty thousand infantry and cavalry, Prince George manœuvred with his troops so inimitably well, that the hills of Liaben resounded with echoes of applause from some of the most experienced officers in Europe. Even the Emperor himself cried out to the brave Caledonian marshal, who stood near him, "Well, Laudohn, what do you think of Mecklenburg now?" "Sire," answered the veteran Scot, "I think, if he was equally attached to the field as he is to the fair, he would be worth to your Majesty ten thousand men."

This prince was uncommonly kind to all British subjects—the companion of those who were rich, and the uniform patron of such as were poor. His love for the nation, indeed, went so far, that whoever spoke English, of whatever country they might be, was sure, if in distress, to be relieved. In his principles, he was a firm Protestant, and an enemy to every kind of intolerance; and there was nothing he so much found fault with in the English constitution, as its narrowness, in forcing so many honourable and brave subjects to seek employment in foreign countries, and even among the enemies of their native land, on account of their religion. A church that had belonged to a suppressed convent, at Prague, was ceded to the Protestants, by the Emperor, at his request, and supported by his munificence. If ever any prince was susceptible of friendship, it was George

of Mecklenburg. He was often heard to say, that he never forsook a friend, till the person, in whom he had placed confidence, first forsook him.

The writer of a letter, from whence this account is extracted, says, "I shall mention one instance of his humanity, to which I was witness. When provincial of the Grand Lodge of Free-masons, at Prague, which society was composed of the principal nobility and gentry of the country, he heard of an infant having been left wrapped up at a convent-door, by the unfortunate mother, but that, owing to the intense cold, it had perished before daylight. Upon this, the prince formed the plan of a foundling-hospital; and, by his influence, it was carried into effect—so that, in a short time, he had the satisfaction of seeing one hundred deserted innocents happily rescued from a premature death."

Another instance of his liberality deserves to be related. One Mr. Corry, a native of Ireland, who served in Calemberg's regiment, happened to have a dispute with an Imperial count, whose lady was a great favourite with the Empress-Queen; and the consequence was a duel, in which the count was slightly wounded. The lady, however, enraged that any of her husband's noble blood should be spilled by a wild Irishman, made such a representation of the case at court, that the unfortunate Hibernian received orders in a few days, from the council of war, to depart immediately for Transylvania, and join the third battalion—to which no one was sent but the invalided and disgraced. The blood of the Milesian could ill endure this stain upon his honour. He would have preferred death itself, to such a sentence: but there was no alternative; he had no friend to interpose in his behalf; and he was closely guarded till he reached the

dreary region, where he was doomed to pass his days in misery. When Prince George became acquainted with the case, he set off from Prague to Vienna, obtained an order for the recall of the exile, and appointed him captain in his own regiment. This noble-minded prince died on the 6th of November, 1785.

On the breaking up of the military review in Bohemia, the royal brothers separated—Prince Frederick proceeding to Berlin, and Prince William returning into Italy, where he passed the winter. Early in the spring, his Royal Highness directed his course homewards, through France; and on the 12th of May, 1785, arrived at Hanover, where he was joined by Prince Edward, who had just landed at Stade, from the *Augusta yacht*. After passing some days together, another separation took place, by the embarkation of Prince William for England, where he landed on the 10th of June; and, at five in the afternoon, reached Buckingham House.

The same evening, the Prince of Wales had a splendid fête, at Carlton House. As soon as his Royal Highness was made acquainted with the arrival of his brother from Germany, he left Lord and Lady Southampton to receive the company, while he went to the Queen's Palace to welcome Prince William, and to invite him to the entertainment. But, in this object, he was doomed to experience a severe mortification. The King would not consent to part with the young Prince that night; and, after some high words, the Heir-Apparent went back, to make an apology for his own absence, and to express his concern for the disappointment.

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1785 to 1786.

THE novitiate of Prince William was far from terminating at this period. Having passed two years, for his improvement, on the continent; he was now to commence a new career of professional duty. On Friday, the 17th of June, a full board of Admiralty was held, for the examination of his Royal Highness as to his qualifications, preparatory to his receiving the commission of a lieutenant. So strict, indeed, was the King in this, as well as every occasion which affected the public service, that upon no account would he allow any distinction to be made between his son and other young candidates for promotion. In truth, however, there was not the slightest call for any such indulgence in the present instance; and Lord Howe, who presided in person at the board, told his Majesty afterwards, that he had great pleasure in saying, "the Prince was every inch a sailor." His commission, as third-lieutenant of the *Hebe* frigate, was then made out, signed, and delivered to the Prince with all formality; after which he returned to St. James's, where he changed his dress of a midshipman for that of his new rank. The same day, his Royal Highness went to the levee, where he was presented by the Lords Commissioners, and kissed the King's hand on his appointment.



Painted by Sir John Verelst

Engraved by A. Wilson

ADMIRAL RICHARD HOWE EARL HOWE

Howe

On the following morning, the Prince of Wales gave a very grand public breakfast, in honour of his brother at Carlton House, where the gardens were laid out in an elegant style, for the accommodation of a numerous assemblage of noblemen and gentlemen, many of whom were naval officers of superior rank, particularly such as had served with his Royal Highness. The same day, Prince William left town for Windsor; and on Monday morning he set off with Lord Howe for Portsmouth, where they were received by Admiral Montagu, and the officers of the fleet and garrison. After dining at the Government-house, the Prince, Lord John Levison Gower, Captains Thornborough and Euston, embarked on board the *Hebe*, of forty-four guns, which had been taken from the French in the late war. The frigate immediately got under weigh, and, with the *Mutiné* cutter, stood to the eastward.

One object of this voyage was to circumnavigate the island, and initiate the young Prince in the principles of hydrography, and the practice of marine surveying, under the particular direction of Admiral Gower, who, however, on this service, only hoisted a broad pendant, as commodore. On passing the Foreland, and entering the North Sea, the *Hebe* was joined by the *Rose*, of twenty-eight guns, and the *Monkey* cutter; to which was afterwards added, in Yarmouth Roads, the *Speedy* sloop of war, Captain Rogers, stationed there to intercept smugglers.

The Prince landed at Yarmouth, on the first of July, accompanied by the commodore, and also Captain Rogers, with whom he had been acquainted in America. At his landing, the Prince was received by a numerous assembly of the most respectable inhabitants, who paid

him great respect. After taking a view of the town, and driving to Caister and Gorleston, his Royal Highness returned on board the same evening.

On the 6th of July, the *Hebe* and the sloop arrived in Bridlington Bay; and, the next day, the *Prince*, with Captains Thornborough and Rogers, landed, amidst a vast concourse of the inhabitants, from all parts of the country.

The wind proving unfavourable, the ships lay here at anchor above a week—during which time his Royal Highness made several excursions on shore; one of which, however, had like to have proved of serious consequences. According to the account published at the time, the *Prince*, intending to take a trip to Hull with some of his messmates, was thrown from his horse, and received a contusion on the head, with some other bruises. Dr. Johnson, a physician of Beverley, being sent for, took the Royal Patient home to his own house, where he was bled, and slept that night; but the next morning, being Sunday, he was sufficiently recovered to set off in a chaise-and-four, to join the frigate.

Mr. Gilpin relates the story more circumstantially, in his *Memoir of Captain Rogers*; but evidently with a slight error as to the place where the accident occurred. He says, “Captain Rogers, on being appointed to that station, purchased a little cottage not far from Yarmouth, where the *Prince* was a frequent guest, while off that coast. Here, he one day persuaded Captain Rogers to make a little excursion with him into the country, to see a race. They had neither horses to carry them, nor servants to attend them; but hired, as the *Prince* proposed, two hackney horses at Yarmouth, and went alone. Before they got to the race-ground, the *Prince*’s

horse fell. The Prince was thrown off, and received a very violent shock. Captain Rogers saw no signs of life in him ; and believed he was dead. Greatly distressed, he took the Prince up in his arms, and carried him, by main strength, to the nearest cottage, where he laid him on such a bed as he could procure. He was blooded, as soon as any medical assistance could be had ; but it was some time before he came to himself. As he lay upon the bed, pale and languid, his flaxen hair decomposed and tumbled about his face, a report spread in the neighbourhood, that the Prince was a young lady going off with her lover to Scotland ; which entertained his Royal Highness very much, when he recovered. The old woman who inhabited the cottage, on finding her mistake, and knowing the quality of the guest she had received, shewed the bed on which the Prince had lain, to all the country round, at a penny a head ; and, while the novelty lasted, she turned it into a comfortable living.

This artful speculation of the Yorkshire dame, brings to recollection a contrivance to raise money somewhat similar, but far more ludicrous. In the summer of 1786, an attempt was made upon the life of his late Majesty, George the Third, by a mad-woman, named Margaret Nicholson. The weapon used by the maniac was an old dessert knife, with a green handle. This affair made a great noise, and numerous addresses were got up to congratulate the King on his wonderful escape. While the public attention was thus engaged, the landlord of a public-house, on the road between Marlborough and Devizes, hung out a board with this inscription :—" To be seen within, the fork that belonged to the identical knife wherewith Margaret Nicholson attempted to stab

his Majesty, King George the Third—admittance one penny.” Upon the landlord’s being desired to produce the treasure, he brought out an old deal case, in which was an old-fashioned fork, with a green handle. To heighten the humour, and increase credulity, the lid had the following inscription:—“ This fork, and the knife belonging to it, were the dessert knife and fork of Mr. Burn, the famous Irish giant, to whom Mrs. Nicholson is cousin, three times removed.”

The landlord was a poor infirm old man, and, though not destitute of sense or drollery, yet was weak enough to credit the whole of the account he was instructed to relate ; which, together with the fork, was given to him, he said, by a neighbouring gentleman, “ that he might get a penny in an honest way.”

But, we must now return to Prince William and the squadron. As soon as the arrival of his Royal Highness on the northern coast was known, very lively expectations were raised at Edinburgh, and along that part of Scotland, of his immediate landing ; but the good people were much disappointed in the hopes they had entertained.

On Thursday afternoon, July the 14th, the Brazen cutter arrived at Leith, express from Commodore Gower, ordering such of his Majesty’s ships as were there, to join him without loss of time. The cutter, in about an hour after, with the Race Horse, proceeded to sea ; but on Friday evening early, she returned again to her former station, in company with the Kite cutter ; having left the Hebe at anchor off Gullen Point, near North Berwick. The commodore, with the other vessels, remained there till Saturday noon, when the whole got under weigh, and went down the Firth with a press of sail, shaping their course to the northward. When the Hebe

appeared off Dunbar, she was saluted by the fort with twenty-one guns, which she returned. A gentleman, writing to his friend, from Edinburgh, at this time, concluded with saying, "The squadron are going to survey the coast all the way to the Orkneys; and to drive off any foreign vessels that are fishing within the limits of our coasts. This is the business and the instructions which the commodore has received from the Admiralty, and the latter are very particular on this head."

The present expedition, therefore, was neither one of mere pleasure, nor wholly for the improvement of the Prince in those branches of nautical science with which his experience on foreign stations had left him imperfectly acquainted. These objects were connected with others of far greater importance. In the late war, the coasts of Britain, on every side, from the Land's End, in Cornwall, to the north of Scotland, and down the Irish channel, had been exposed, in a defenceless state, to the depredation of freebooters; who not only carried away the trading vessels, but landed in various places, plundered noblemen's seats, and even laid several towns under contribution. After the peace, these marauders returned to their old practice of smuggling; which they carried on to an extent far surpassing what had ever been known before, to the detriment of the revenue, the injury of trade, and the corruption of morals.

Much of this illicit traffic was carried on, especially along the eastern coast of England, and the north of Scotland, by craft either actually employed in fishing, or adopting that pursuit as a cover for a more profitable concern.

Thus the nation suffered generally; and no class more

than the seamen, who having been thrown out of employ by the dismantling of the navy, and the loss of the American trade, were now deprived of the means of earning a livelihood, owing to the encroachments of the Dutch fishermen within the line of demarcation prescribed by treaty. This last, indeed, had been an old grievance, and had drawn forth many heavy complaints from Sir Walter Raleigh, and other patriots at the beginning of the seventeenth century. One of these writers, John Keymor, in his "Observations upon the Dutch Fishery," gives the following account of our neighbours' industry, contrasted with the deficiency of our own:—

"Two thousand busses, from sixty to one hundred and two hundred tons apiece, are employed only to take herrings about Buchanness in Scotland, all along the coasts of England to the 'Thames' mouth, from June to November, twenty-six weeks; and one of their great busses does take eight, twelve, or twenty lasts of herrings at a draught in the night, and carries into their country forty, fifty, or one hundred lasts in a buss. And our fishing continueth but seven weeks with small crayets and cobles, from five, ten, to twenty tons, when the herrings come home to our own roadstead, and we take one, two, or three lasts in a night; and when we bring home seven, it is a great wonder.

"Besides the number taken by their two thousand busses, the Hollanders have above four hundred other vessels, called gaynes and evers, which do take herrings to Yarmouth, and there sell them, and carry away ready money. They have yet five hundred other ships usually trading every year to London, with cod and ling taken in his Majesty's seas, as also other parts of England, and here sell them, and carry away most fine gold, which is

made into base gold, toys, and seals : a great hurt to the wealth and strength of our land, and hinderance to navigation and mariners, and employment to the poor of this nation.

“The Hollanders,” continues the same writer, “have made a law in their own country, that we shall sell no white herrings nor other fish there, upon penalty of confiscation, because they will have no other nation to serve their country with fish, but what they take themselves ; as well for the increase as maintainance of navigation, and setting their people on work. Hamburgh, likewise, hath made an order, that we shall sell no fish there, before their busses be come from fishing, and have sold all theirs. Thus they take herrings in his Majesty’s seas, make laws to cross and hinder us in our sales, for the enriching and strengthening themselves, and increasing their ships and mariners.”

The same evil prevailed at the period of which we are now writing ; and the Dutch even went so far as to fit out a squadron, consisting of three frigates and a sloop of war, to protect their fishing vessels, in case of any interruption being given to them ; but upon the appearance of Commodore Gower on the Dogger bank, they all thought proper to retire within their own boundary. •

No man felt the importance of the coast fishery of Britain more than Lord Rodney ; and there is reason to believe, that the present expedition, and that of stationary frigates at proper distances, originated with this intelligent and brave admiral. The following anecdote shews the interest his Lordshp took in that valuable nursery of seamen, and inexhaustible source of national wealth.

Dining one day with the Prince of Wales, Lord Rodney took notice of a plate of cured herrings on the

table, of which his Royal Highness was very fond. "Your Royal Highness," said the veteran, "does infinite service to the British navy by encouraging our national fishery. Every person of rank, I hope, will follow the example; and if the number of fashionable tables be taken into consideration, the result may be in time an addition of twenty thousand hardy seamen to our fleets;—men brought up from childhood on the ocean, in a branch of service to which Holland is solely indebted for her maritime strength." The Prince replied: "My Lord, you do me more honour than I deserve: these herrings, I am sorry to say, were not cured by British hands. I understand your reasoning, which is perfectly just—it is that of Lord Rodney, upon his own element. Henceforward, I shall order a plate of British cured herrings to be purchased, and to appear as a standing dish at my table: this shall be called a Rodney. Under that designation, no true patriot will neglect to follow the example."

For a long time afterwards a cured herring went by the name of a Rodney; though how it obtained that appellation, few could tell.

But we must now follow the course of our Royal navigator to the "ultima Thule" of ancient geography.

Having cleared the Inch Cape Rock, in running along the coast from the Frith of Forth, the ships off Buchan Ness steered for Shetland; but after looking into Brassy, where in the year 1665 the brave Earl of Sandwich with his whole fleet anchored, they altered their cruise, and stood to the south-west for the Orkneys; and on Monday, the 15th of July, came to an anchor in Kirkwall road, where they remained four days; and then went on a cruise round the northernmost of these isles.

During their stay at Kirkwall, numbers of gentlemen and ladies went on board the Hebe, to pay their respects to the Prince. Some of these visitors were not only honoured with an introduction to his Royal Highness; but they were also admitted to dine with him and the commodore. Among those that were so favoured, was Mr. John Moodie, a native of Orkney, who had sailed with the Prince all the time he was in the Prince George, and afterwards in the Barfleur. Being only a warrant officer, he had of course no pay from government after the peace; in consequence of which his circumstances were very indifferent, even in so cheap a place as Kirkwall. The Prince soon made himself acquainted with the condition of his old shipmate, whose spirit he admired, and who had on many occasions rendered him service. Sensible of this, the Prince generously gave Mr. Moodie an order upon his banker for forty pounds to be paid yearly, till he should be again employed; which was not long after.

On Wednesday afternoon, his Royal Highness, in compliment to the city of Kirkwall, the capital of Pomona, and once a bishop's see, went on shore, attended by Captain Thornborough, and paraded the streets from one end to the other. On this occasion, nothing could be heard but the ringing of bells, and shouting of the people, as demonstrations of their joy at seeing among them the first member of the Royal family that had ever visited those remote parts of the British dominions. The incorporations of Kirkwall assembled, and drew up an address, which, with the freedom of their societies, was delivered to his Royal Highness on board the Hebe, by Messrs Walter and Cobban, two of the body, who met with a very gracious reception.

In this survey, the Prince paid particular attention to

the phenomenon of the tide, which in all the channels that divide the islands runs very strong ; but with different circumstances—for while the flood sets in one direction through one passage, it takes an opposite course in another, and that with the same degree of velocity. Another object which engaged the curiosity of his Royal Highness, was the manner of bird-catching in the smaller isles or holms of the Orcades. The height of some of the cliffs, which are almost perpendicular, exceeds fifty fathoms ; yet frightful as these gigantic forms are to the beholder who views them for the first time from the sea, the natives of the neighbouring islands make nothing of climbing them in search of game, and the eggs which the birds lay on the shelves of the precipices. To these the dauntless fowlers ascend with rapidity, pass from one projection to another intrepidly, collect the eggs and the birds, and then descend with the same ease and indifference. In most places the attempt is made from above, the fowler being lowered from the slope nearest the brink of the precipice, by a rope made of the bristles of hogs ; that of hemp being liable to be cut, like a ship's cable, by the sharpness of the rocks. One man above holds the rope, while his companion descends, and draws him up again by mere personal strength alone ; from which some idea may be formed of the strength, as well as agility, of these islanders.

In this demi-arctic cruise, the Hebe came to off the Fair Isle, lying, or, as Dr. Johnson would have said, cast aside from human use, midway between Orkney and Shetland. Though full three miles long, this isle is scarcely half a mile broad, very craggy, with three rocks, of such a height, that they are clearly seen both from Orkney and Shetland, though the nearest of the former is ten leagues,

and the latter seventeen leagues, distant from them. This island has some arable land, which is very fruitful and well manured. Here, also, are many sheep, which, though small, are good and fat. This romantic spot had sufficient attractions to induce the Prince to pay it a visit, though the island has no harbour, and only one creek accessible to boats at the north-east end. Here his Royal Highness landed with some difficulty, and, wading through the surf, clambered over the rocks to the upper part of the island; but as he was unknown, the people, though extremely civil, paid him no remarkable attention. After traversing the isolated spot, and shooting some wild fowl, of which there was an abundance, he returned on board.

However small and insignificant this island may seem, it is not without a claim to historic record. The Duke of Medina Sidonia, when commander-in-chief of the famous Spanish armada, in the year 1588, was wrecked on the eastern coast of Fair Island. The ship went to pieces, but the duke, and about two hundred more, escaped. They lived here till both themselves and the inhabitants were very nearly famished. At length, the duke and the poor remains of his people were carried over to the main land of Shetland, by Andrew Humphry. The duke continued there some time, and then embarked on board the same small vessel, which conveyed him safely to Dunkirk, where Humphry was dismissed with a munificent reward for his service.

Prince William was much pleased with the honest simplicity and hospitable character of the people throughout all the islands in these seas. He, however, could scarcely credit what he was told of their propensity to look out for wrecks, that they might profit by the plunder. Yet,

upon inquiry, it was found, that the practice, instead of being confined to the lower classes, prevailed equally among those of a higher order. Both in Orkney and Shetland, wrecks are, by the vulgar, considered as "God-sends." And, in some cases, even the lairds themselves have not kept clean hands. "These are my rocks," said one of these proprietors of the land, to an officer in his Majesty's naval service, who interposed to protect the cargo of a stranded vessel—"these are my rocks," repeated he, as if that circumstance gave him an unquestionable right to appropriate the cargo to himself.

When such was the morality of the landlord, what could be expected of the poor tenantry? The seamen of the King's ship were obliged to beat off the wreckers with sticks—"Just as we beat off malducks, or fulmars, from tearing the blubber, while flenching whales in Greenland," said a sailor, in his peculiar phrase, who had been formerly in that trade.

An erroneous opinion prevails in these islands, and perhaps elsewhere, that, in the event of a shipwreck, if the owners do not appear to claim, within a year, such part of the cargo that is saved may be lawfully divided into three shares: one to the high admiral of those seas; another to the owner of the ground; or, as we should say, the lord of the manor; and a third to the cottar-families, who are supposed to have assisted in saving the property—but who, in general, do all they can to secure the whole for themselves.

On the 29th of July, the *Hebe* and *Mutiné* arrived at Stornaway, in the Isle of Lewis, one of the Hebrides, where they came to an anchor. Mr. Mackenzie, of Seaforth, factor, and some others of the principal inhabitants, had the honour of paying their respects to the Prince

on board. Afterwards, his Royal Highness and Commodore Gower went on shore, and expressed much satisfaction at the neatness of the village; the capaciousness and security of the harbour; and the stir occasioned by the number of vessels hourly arriving, this being the central ground in waiting for the herring-fishing, about which the Prince and the Commodore were particularly inquisitive. As they remained here nearly a week, they had ample opportunity for the gratification of their curiosity, and making their observations upon this wonderful proof of providential care for the wants of man :—

“ — Where the northern ocean in vast whirls
Boils round the naked melancholy isles
Of farthest Thule :—
Who can recount what transmigrations there
Are annual made ? what nations come and go ?
And how the living clouds on clouds arise ?
Infinite wings ! till all the plume dark air,
And rude resounding shore, are one wild cry.”

Well might such an object engage the consideration of a British prince, especially one so brought up to active pursuits, in the service of his country, as his Royal Highness had now been for seven years. * Something has already been said on the subject, but it may not be amiss to add here what an able writer has stated upon this branch of political economy.

The Dutch, it is well known, accounted this fishery their “ golden mine ;” and it seems generally agreed, by those best informed on the subject, that it yielded them, for a long course of years, three millions sterling annually. Dr. Campbell, in his “ Political Survey of Great Britain,” after premising that the value of the

Dutch fishery has often been exaggerated, and that he will, therefore, give a moderate computation, proceeds thus:—"It would, however, be no difficult thing to prove, that, while it continued to flourish in their hands, they drew from the ocean washing the northern shores of Britain, to the amount of two hundred millions."

The island of Lewis afforded a variety of amusements to the Prince, during his short stay there—chiefly angling, in which he was very successful; and, for this sport, no situation could be better furnished. Besides the rivers, which abound with salmon, trout, and other excellent fish, there are many fresh-water lakes, all plentifully stocked with fish of different kinds. These lakes are also covered with an incredible diversity of wild fowl; amongst which, the most remarkable is the famous *anas fuligula*, or eider-duck; but here it is called, the colck; the down of which is supposed to be the finest in the world. On observing the vast variety of game which abound here, the Prince much regretted that the shooting-season had not commenced.

James the First had a design to establish a royal borough in Lewis, for the promotion of the fishery and commerce; but left the execution of the scheme to his son, who was prevented from carrying it into effect by the troubles which deprived him of his crown and life. There were several Dutch settlers here at that time, who, by their industry and superior knowledge, greatly improved the natives, particularly in the art of ship-building, and the method of curing herrings. After the restoration, however, these foreigners were removed, from political motives; but the benefits they rendered the place are still felt and acknowledged.

The Hebe, and her attendant cutter, having lain at Stornaway from Sunday to Friday, the Prince and some of the officers, after dining with the factor, went on board, and sailed the same evening.

On Thursday, the 3rd of August, they came to off Campbelton, in the Mull of Cantire, with the intention of putting the Prince on shore there; but the wind blowing fresh at east, the Commodore was afraid it would prevent his getting out of the harbour so expeditiously as he could wish. The boat, therefore, that had been sent to the town was recalled, and, greatly to the mortification of the inhabitants, both vessels stood off again to sea, for the coast of Ireland. The next morning they were off Carrickfergus, and came so far into the bay, that the whole population of Belfast left their habitations and employments, to hail the first Prince of the Brunswick line that ever touched the Emerald Isle. Here, however, another severe disappointment was experienced.

The Perseus frigate, and Langrishe cutter, then stationed at Carrickfergus, fired ordinary salutes; which were returned in the usual way: but no indications appeared of a disembarkation, to gratify the assembled multitude, and the local authorities, who were making great preparations to manifest their loyalty.

It was understood, that one reason for the Prince's declining the honours due to his birth, was a previous order from the King, that he should be considered only as a lieutenant, while on actual service. One of the officers, who went on shore at Campbelton, said, that the Prince did duty, night and day, as regularly as any of the other lieutenants. There was great propriety in this conduct; for in no case can a person be qualified to command, who has not himself learned how to obey,

and to practise those duties which he may be called upon to require from others.

On leaving the bay of Carrickfergus, the Hebe and her consort proceeded down the Irish channel, with the wind blowing fresh to the eastward ; so that they made a quick passage to Milford, where they came to an anchor on Sunday, the 5th of August. The royal visiter's arrival being presently spread throughout the country, the people collected on every side of the haven, to welcome the Prince to that part of the Cambrian shore, where none of his rank had landed since Henry of Richmond, who came to wrest the crown of England from the brow of Richard the Third.

His Royal Highness Prince William disembarked on Tuesday, and, amid the acclamations of the assembled population, passed through the town of Haverfordwest to Picton Castle, the seat of Lord Milford. After dining with his lordship, the Prince returned to Haverfordwest, where he joined in the dance at the assembly-room, which was filled by all the fashionables of that gay town and neighbourhood ; and with whom he ingratiated himself exceedingly, by his polite and cheerful manners.

As the Hebe remained here above a fortnight, on account of the survey which the Admiralty had ordered to be made of the state of that valuable harbour, and of the improvement it was capable of as a naval arsenal, the Prince availed himself of the leisure thus afforded, to extend his observations through the two counties of Pembroke and Carmarthen. In these excursions he visited the seats of the principal nobility and gentry, but his longest residence was at Picton Castle, with the beauty of which noble mansion, and the objects around, he was particularly delighted. The views from every

window of the castle, and, from every part of the grounds, are fine beyond description. Different scenes of one of the most beautiful rivers in the kingdom present themselves continually: vessels for ever passing and repassing, one while appearing through the openings of romantic and picturesque rocks, at another sweeping along in full sail, and at others hiding themselves as it were in the coves and bays that diversify every part of the river. The largest wood in this part of Wales, and abounding with the finest oaks, here extends down to the very edge of the water. There are also many noble trees in the park, which is very extensive, and abounds in deer. About five miles distant, on the opposite side of the river, is seen the town of Haverfordwest, with its white houses glistening in the sun. An ancient castle in ruins, the Trefgarine rocks, resembling a Gothic cathedral, and a bold mountainous ridge, terminate the view.

Between this charming spot and the harbour, most of the time of the Prince was divided, during the survey which the commodore, and the engineers under him, were making in the different branches of the haven. Milford is universally allowed to be the best harbour in Great Britain; and certainly it is as secure and spacious as any in Europe. It has sixteen deep and safe creeks, five bays, and thirteen roads, all distinguished by several names, and in which above a thousand sail of ships may ride in perfect security, at a sufficient distance from each other. There is no danger in sailing in or out with the tide, either by day or by night, let the wind blow in what direction it may; and if a ship in distress comes in, without either anchor or cable, she may run ashore on a bed of mud, and there lie in safety till refitted.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, before the Spanish

attempt to invade England, two forts were begun at the entrance of Milford Haven, one on each side, called Nangle and Dale Block-Houses, but they were never finished; and from that time to the present survey, this important place seems to have been wholly neglected. In 1757, the merchants of London presented a petition to the House of Commons, setting forth, that the port of Milford was a safe and commodious harbour, capable of receiving at all times the whole Royal navy, and trade of Great Britain; and was most conveniently situated for the resort and security of merchant ships, when they cannot easily enter the English channel, and for the sending out and relieving of cruisers in case of damage; that ships might proceed from the said harbour into the ocean, and return from thence, with almost any wind, by taking advantage of the strong currents, and in a great deal less time than was usually employed in sailing with the most favourable wind from Portsmouth to the Land's End; that the said harbour might, in a very short time, at a moderate expense, be rendered defensible and secure against any attack; that a dock-yard might be established there, and any number of ships, and of any rate, rebuilt, careened, repaired, and fitted for sea with the greatest convenience and expedition; and that plenty of proper materials for the construction of ships abound in the adjacent countries; and, therefore, praying the House to take the matter into consideration, and to make such provision relative thereto, as its nature and importance might appear to require.

This petition was referred to a Committee, whose report being favourable, a grant of ten thousand pounds was voted towards fortifying and securing Milford Haven. Notwithstanding this, Milford remained in the same

neglected state all through the American war ; nor does it appear that any proposition was once made upon the subject in either house of parliament, though the necessity of improving our national resources, and of strengthening our coasts, was universally admitted.

Dr. Campbell, in his valuable work already quoted, endeavoured to call the attention of government and the public to the importance of this noble haven, as a seaport for commercial purposes. "National advantages, however great in themselves," says this intelligent writer, "are but too liable, in all countries, to be overlooked ; and, therefore, it is incumbent upon the government, when apprised of them, to consider, and call them forth for the common advantage. Leghorn was a very despicable place, and, besides, unwholesome from its situation, till the advantage of its haven being discerned by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and the state of commerce in Italy duly weighed, gave him the prospect of the benefits it might produce. This idea being prosecuted with equal prudence and spirit, soon changed the face of things, not barely in respect to that port, but in regard to a large extent of country round, and, in process of time, to the whole territory of that prince."

Dr. Campbell, having happily adduced Leghorn as an instance of what might be done for local improvement, even under the greatest obstacles, shewed at length, that Milford presented in itself, and on every side, all the advantages requisite to make it the first port in the kingdom. But even this representation failed to rouse a proper spirit in the public ; nor did government pay any regard to the use that might be made of this outpost, till the peace of 1783 obliged ministers to review the errors of their predecessors. Then the present survey was

undertaken by order of the Admiralty Board, at the suggestion of the King himself, who was also desirous that his son should be employed in the important concern. Commodore Gower's report, however, though strongly in favour of Milford as a naval station, was thrown aside ; and, if ever any idea was entertained of acting upon it, nothing took place to render the design effective, till after the commencement of the French revolutionary war, and then upon a scale inferior to its importance.

On Friday, the 26th of August, the Hebe and the cutter came to an anchor in Falmouth harbour, where Prince William landed the same day. His Royal Highness was received on shore by Lord Falmouth, the brother-in-law of the commodore, and all three immediately set off for Tregothnan House, the seat of his lordship.

On Monday, the Prince, Lord Falmouth, and the Commodore, rode on horseback to Truro. Here, after honouring the corporation with a visit, his Royal Highness, accompanied by Mr. Daniel, the banker of the town, and principal proprietor of the tin-works, went to see the different operations of the smelting-house. There the Prince partook of beef-steaks, broiled on one of the heated blocks of tin ; which mode of cooking is, by the universal testimony of gastronomists, admitted to be the most exquisite process for enjoying a rump-steak to perfection. Having indulged in this superexcellent luxury, the Prince returned to Tregothnan House ; but, in the evening, he honoured the assembly at Truro with his presence, and highly delighted the Cornish beauties by his gallantry and affability.

During his stay at this extremity of the island, the Prince made several excursions and visits to the seats of

the principal gentry. He also ventured down some of the copper and tin mines, concerning which he was very inquisitive ; and was observed to minute the answers to his inquiries, on paper.

Being informed that a considerable revenue accrued to the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, from the tin-mines, each block produced at the smelting-houses paying twelve shillings, his Royal Highness archly replied, " I am exceedingly glad to hear it ; for I have no doubt that this tin cash must prove very acceptable to my brother George."

Being shewn, at Tregothnan House, a portrait of the brave Admiral Boscawen, the Prince expressed so great an admiration of his character, and such a curiosity to learn some particulars of him, that Lord Falmouth felt a peculiar gratification in dwelling upon the personal as well as professional history of his gallant relative.

When captain of the Dreadnought, he was sent to cruise for a French fleet of merchantmen from St. Domingo ; and, while waiting in the track directed as most likely to fall in with the expected object, a seaman came to tell him, that the fleet was in sight. Captain Boscawen took his glass, and was soon convinced that, instead of the convoy, it was the French grand fleet. All the officers, as well as the crew, however, were not to be persuaded ; for their heads were set upon prizes. " Well, gentlemen," said the captain, laying down the glass, " you shall not say that I have stood in the way of your getting riches, I therefore submit ; but, remember, when you find your mistake, it is sink or swim—you must stand by me or perish." As he said, so it proved ; but, by superior seamanship, he avoided an action, and escaped.

No man ever had the honour of the service more at heart than Admiral Boscawen. When Lord Anson, then at the head of the board, refused to confirm the admiral's promotion of two officers, Laforey and Balfour, to the rank of post-captains, in consequence of their having distinguished themselves at the taking of Louisbourg; Boscawen threatened to give up his commission, which had the proper effect.

This great commander could not endure party spirit: finding some of his friends out of place when he returned from abroad, and being asked whether he would continue at the board of Admiralty under the new Administration, he nobly answered, "The country has a right to the services of its professional men; and, should I be sent again upon an expedition, my situation at the board will facilitate the equipment of the fleet I am appointed to command."

No stronger testimony to the merit of a commander could be given, than that of the great William Pitt, when prime minister, to Admiral Boscawen:—"When I apply," said he, "to other officers, respecting any expedition I may chance to project, they always raise difficulties: you, on the contrary, are ready with expedients."

The last time the Admiral visited Cornwall was marked by a singular circumstance.

On the night of the 17th of September, 1760, a large Algerine xebeque struck on the rocks, near Penzance: she carried eighteen guns, and had two hundred and twenty men; of whom, about forty were drowned: the country was soon alarmed; and the first report was, that the French had landed; but the next was, that an Algerine had come on shore with the plague on board. Nothing

could equal the bustle and panic which this occasioned. Some ventured towards the beach, but soon returned, affirming that they had smelt the stench of the plague; and in consequence drank copiously of brandy, by way of antidote. The Algerines were dismayed full as much as the natives. They had imagined our shore was the coast of Spain, and expected, of course, nothing less than chains and slavery for life. But when convinced that they were on British ground, they danced for joy, exclaiming, "Ingelterra! Ingelterra! bona Ingelterra."

The *Savage* sloop of war being then on the station, the captain sent some of his people to act as sentinels, till the arrival of the military from the next town. Every attention was shewn to the sufferers, who remained here above a month, and were put on board a vessel, to be conveyed home to Algiers. While the transport lay at Falmouth, waiting for convoy, Admiral Boscawen came down to Tregothnan, to visit his brother. The master waited on the admiral, to pay his respects; and when the latter expressed his hope that every thing had been done to render the Algerines comfortable, particularly in regard to provisions, the captain said, they had plenty of excellent pork, though very little beef. "Pork, pork!" exclaimed the admiral, "d—— you, the navy-board, and the victualling-office, altogether. Don't the blockheads know that the religion of the Turks and Moors forbids them to eat pork!"

Upon this, orders were given to procure for the ship a proper supply of beef from Plymouth.

The admiral died the year following, and was interred in the church of St. Michael Penkevil; where his widow erected a monument to his memory, with an epitaph written by herself. Mrs. Boscawen was a woman equally

distinguished by genius and spirit. She survived the admiral forty years, and had the honour of being ranked among the particular friends of George the Third and Queen Charlotte.

When the metropolis blazed with illuminations on the acquittal of Admiral Keppel, in 1779, the mob, in perambulating the streets, laid siege to Mrs. Boscawen's house in St. James's Square, bawling, "Put up your lights!" The little old lady opened the window, and said, "Get about your business: my husband beat the French; and I shall not put up any lights for a man who ran away from them."

This address had such an effect upon the populace, that, instead of smashing the windows, they gave three cheers, and departed.

On the tenth of September, the Hebe came to an anchor at Spithead, when Captain Euston gave up the command to Prince William; who then sailed on a cruise in the channel, but still under the instruction of Commodore Gower, assisted by Captain Thornborough.

On the fourth of October, the frigate was at Portsmouth, where the Prince took part in a grand naval ceremony; which, in a letter from thence, is thus described:—"Yesterday, agreeably to the orders of the Admiralty Board, his Majesty's ship, the St. George, of ninety guns, was launched at this port. His Royal Highness Prince William-Henry, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and many of the nobility, were present upon the occasion. By nine in the morning, the yard was crowded with spectators from the different parts of the country; and at half after eleven she was put into the water, amidst the acclamations of the multitude; the ceremony of naming her being first performed

by the young Prince. After the launch was over, his Royal Highness, the nobility, and the officers of different ranks of the navy and marines, attended a public breakfast, given by the commissioners. The Prince afterwards dined on board the Queen, with Admiral Montague, and was saluted with twenty-one guns."

It would not be easy to select any object calculated to raise nobler ideas in the mind of the beholder, than that of a first rate man-of-war entering, from the stocks, into the bosom of the ocean. An elegant writer says, "Those who have ever witnessed the spectacle of the launching of a ship of the line, will, perhaps, forgive me for adding this to the examples of the sublime objects of artificial life. Of that spectacle, I can never forget the impression. When the vast bulwark sprung from her cradle, the calm water, on which she swung majestically round, gave the imagination a contrast of the stormy element in which she was soon to ride. All the days of battle, and nights of danger, she had to encounter; all the ends of the earth which she had to visit; and all that she had to do and suffer for her country, rose in awful presentiment before the mind; and when the heart gave her a benediction, it was like one pronounced on a living being."

The sentiments of the ancients were not less elevated; and it is evident, that the ceremonies now practised at the launching of a ship, are derived from the customs of the Greeks upon the like occasion; with this difference, that they blended religious rites with those of a festive nature. Before the vessel entered her destined element, a priest performed various lustrations, by way of consecrating her to the deity whose name he gave her, and whose image she bore on her prow. The Spaniards and

Portuguese, to this day, never launch any ship without a priestly benediction, and a profuse sprinkling of holy water at the giving of the name, which is usually that of a tutelary saint. However ridiculous this practice may be, our own naval nomenclature is little better, in exhibiting a complete index to the pantheon; by which sailors, who are far from being read in poetical and mythological history, make, without design, as strange transformations of the names of classic antiquity, as Swift did in jest. Now, a name conveys, or ought to convey, some idea worthy of it; but what just conception can any man, much less an uneducated mariner, have of a Bellerophon, commonly pronounced, "Billy Ruffian;" an Arachne; a Gorgon; or an Hamadryad; with a number of other puzzling appellatives, hard to understand, and still harder to utter?

But the navy-list, besides these fabulous names, abounds with many so undignified and inappropriate, that it would almost seem as if they had been selected on purpose to throw ridicule upon the service. How else can we account for such elegant discriminatives as the Bull-dog, and the Mastiff; the Sparrow-hawk, and the Squirrel; the Juniper, and the Bramble; the Swaggerer, and the Swinger; the Surly, and the Growler; the Plumper, and the Pincher—all of which, and a hundred more of the same sort, grace the nautical catalogue of Great Britain; with his Majesty's good ship the Belzebub, to bring up the rear.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1786 TO 1788.

PRINCE William-Henry, after serving some time in the Hebe frigate, as second-lieutenant, was removed to the Pegasus, of twenty-eight guns ; and, on the 10th of April, 1786, received his commission as post-captain of that ship, then lying at Plymouth.

On his Royal Highness's appointment to this command, the captains, then in harbour, expressed their wish, by the port-admiral, to be introduced to him in form. Prince William accordingly appointed the following day, when he held his levee at the Commissioner's house. The captains were all introduced ; but he expressed great surprise, that his late brother officers, the lieutenants, had not waited on him also, and expressed a wish that they should the next day attend his levee. The lieutenants, in consequence, waited on the Prince, who immediately, with a good taste only to be equalled by its good feeling, invited himself to dine with them ; named a day previous to the one for which he stood engaged to the captains ; and added, with a frank kindness, " Then, my boys, we will have a jolly day of it together."

During his stay at Plymouth, his Royal Highness became a member of the society of Free-masons ; being initiated in due form in the Lodge, number eighty-six, then held at the Prince George Inn, in that town.

About the same time, he was pleased to accept the freedom of the borough of Plymouth, which was presented to him in an elegant gold box, by the four senior aldermen, and as many common-councilmen, of that ancient and respectable corporation.

As the Pegasus was now under orders to prepare for a distant station, her commander, who had spent most of the winter at Plymouth, repaired to London to receive his instructions from the Admiralty-board, and to take leave of his family. His stay in town, however, was but short; and yet it must have been at this period that the following circumstance happened, if in truth it ever happened at all. But since the story has appeared in certain ephemeral memoirs of the Royal Family, and may probably have had some foundation in truth, the insertion of it in this publication is necessary.

At a masquerade, in which the Prince of Wales appeared in the character of a Spanish grandee, accompanied by four of his squires, he is said to have paid particular attention to a nun, who was under the protection of a sailor. The assiduities of the Don were evidently unwelcome to the fair Ursuline, and the gallant tar threatened instantaneous chastisement, if any further provocation were given: the grandee, however, was not to be daunted; and he was very ably supported by his attendants, who, boasting of the high and noble descent of their master, declared it to be an act of the greatest condescension in him to hold any parley with a common English sailor. High words arose, and some taunting expressions were used, tending to imply that the fair devotee possessed no real pretensions to the character she had assumed. At length, allusion being made to the nymphs of Portsmouth Point, the choler of the sailor

could no longer brook the indignity, and a general battle ensued. The constables were called in, and the whole party of disputants were marched off to the watch-house; the Spanish grandee leading the way, in all his gorgeous finery. On arriving in the presence of the constable of the night, the culprits were called upon to declare their real characters. The grandee unmasked, and so did the sailor. "Aye, William, is it you?" exclaimed the one; and "Aye, George, is it you?" responded the other. The constable was astonished at having two princes of the blood-royal before him;—the combatants laughed heartily at the adventure," gave something to the guardians of the night, and retired.

At the time when this laughable incident is said to have taken place, masquerades were much more in fashion than they are at present; and it is certain that the amusement was a favourite one with his late Majesty, when Prince of Wales; though no person disliked it more than the King his father, who thought it both frivolous and immoral. But the example of the Heir-apparent was then more influential in the gay world than that of the Monarch. The Prince had his masquerades; and, therefore, many persons of distinction, regardless of the opinions of the Sovereign, had their's also.

One of the most remarkable of these entertainments was given by the late Lord Berwick, at his house in Grosvenor Square. The company were selected by tickets, to the number of five hundred; and the rooms were completely filled by the votaries of fashion. At about half-past eleven, the Prince and his party arrived from Carlton House. They were thirteen in number, habited as the superior and brothers of a convent of

Grey Friars. The superior sung an extremely witty song, in character, with a chorus by the whole fraternity in a circle: which, at the request of the company, was repeated. After this, the brotherhood unmasked, and were discovered to consist of the following group:— Captain Morris, the author of the song, as superior; the Prince of Wales; Honourable Hugh Conway, afterwards Lord Hugh Seymour; his brother, George Conway; the Honourable Mr. Dillon; the Honourable Mr. Finch; Captain John Willet Payne; Lord Strathaven; the Honourable Mr. St. John; Mr. O'Byrne; Mr. Braddyll; Colonel Gardiner; and Captain Boyle.

Two of these gentlemen, Captain Hugh Conway and Captain Payne, took a house in conjunction, in Conduit Street, Hanover Square, for the sole purpose of entertaining their friends with scenes of merriment. This establishment was indeed the court of Comus, as long as it lasted, where the proprietors of the concern made pleasure their business, and amusement their study. Such extravagance was necessarily of limited duration. Captain Conway married; and his associate, honest Jack Payne, as he was called, the soul of whim, went abroad, to recruit his health and his finances.

While in Italy, Captain Payne became known to Cardinal York, the last of the royal line of Stuart, and was invited to dine with him. The Cardinal, to do honour to his guest, ordered a plum-pudding to be made; but the cook, though well skilled in the art which he professed, failed in producing a viand, of which he might have heard, but had never seen or tasted. Something, however, like a pudding was placed on the table; and the captain, out of politeness, could not refuse to partake of it. His eminence had no higher opinion of the pseudo-

English dish, than the visiter for whom it had been provided. "Captain Payne," said the venerable prelate, "we have done our best to offer you an English plum-pudding; but I fear, after all, that it is no better than a PRETENDER."

This anecdote afforded great amusement to the Prince of Wales, who often related it as an instance of the facetious humour of the last representative of an unfortunate house.

Captain Payne is said to have first become acquainted with the Prince at one of the club-houses, in a singular way. In consequence of some difference of opinion on a nautical subject, among the Prince's companions, it was agreed to refer the matter in dispute to Captain Payne, then sitting with another party. A note was accordingly written, and sent to the umpire, beginning thus:—"As you were *bread* to the seas—" the captain answered the elegant billet, by writing,—“Though I was never *bread* to the sea, the sea has been *bread* to me; and d—d *bad bread* it has proved.”

From this time, the naval wit and hero became almost a fixture at Carlton House, except when called again into professional service; in which he rose to the rank of rear-admiral of the red squadron. He was also treasurer of Greenwich Hospital, lord warden of the stannaries, and comptroller and auditor-general to the Prince of Wales. He died in December, 1803, much lamented by his royal patron, and lies buried in the church of St. Margaret, Westminster.

From this digression, we must now proceed to Plymouth, when Prince William, on his arrival, sailed in the Pegasus, accompanied by the Druid, Captain Elliston, and the Rose, Captain Henry Harvey, for Guernsey. Captain Joseph Elliston was an acquaintance of some

standing with his Royal Highness, having been on board the *Augusta* yacht, which conveyed him to and from Stade. In the late war, when first-lieutenant of *La Prudente* frigate, Captain Waldegrave, (afterwards Lord Radstock,) he lost his arm, in an action with a French ship of superior force. Captain Elliston commanded the *Druid* so many years, that the name of the one appeared to be perfectly associated with that of the other. After cruising in the channel a long time, the *Druid* went on the Jamaica station, where she continued some years. Captain Elliston, on his return home in 1792, put into Weymouth to pay his respects to the Royal Family, who were then spending the summer at that watering-place. The King, who was walking on the esplanade when Captain Elliston landed, knew him in a moment, and called out to Lady Caroline Waldegrave to look out of the window, and she would see an old acquaintance that had sailed with her brother, and lost his arm while on board the same ship. His Majesty, among other questions, asked Captain Elliston how long he had commanded the *Druid*; and on being told, upwards of seven years, he said, "Do you never mean to give her up?" "No please your Majesty," rejoined the Captain, "if you will have the goodness to make me a present of her. This answer highly tickled the King, and he called out to the Queen, who was walking at a little distance, "Charlotte, Charlotte, here this Elliston is asking me to give him the *Druid*."

In the month of June, 1786, Prince William-Henry, having received his orders while off the coast of Normandy, parted company with the captains of the *Druid* and *Rose*, and steered immediately for Newfoundland, and from thence to Halifax, in Nova Scotia.

Here two instances of the Royal benevolence demand our attention. When the Prince was on the eve of sailing from Plymouth, he was accosted in the dock-yard by a poor boy, who, without knowing him, requested his Royal Highness would give him a birth in his ship, to keep him from starving. The Prince put some questions to him, and, being pleased with his answers, as well as his manner, told him to go on board the Pegasus, and tell the commanding officer that the captain had sent him. His Royal Highness afterwards ordered him to be completely clothed, and equipped as a midshipman.

When the Prince arrived at Newfoundland, he accidentally saw a poor woman, who was burthened with a family of fourteen children, without the means of supporting them. Struck with the affecting sight, his Royal Highness, after surveying the whole, made choice of one boy, whose appearance pleased him, and this lad was treated in like manner with the other. During the several voyages made by the Prince, these fortunate youths always stood behind his chair when he dined, but were never made to do any servile work, either on board or on shore. They were placed under the immediate care of the steward, with whom they also messed. When his Royal Highness returned to Plymouth, to complete his beneficence, he sent them both to school, and directed the steward's wife to see that they wanted for nothing in his absence.

On the arrival of the Pegasus at Halifax, the Prince was received by the inhabitants with enthusiastic delight. As there was nothing he disliked more than the restraints of etiquette, he desired that military honours, and other formal ceremonies, should be omitted, whenever

he appeared on shore. The people, however, could not be hindered from manifesting their loyal sentiments in various demonstrations of respect; and to this very day the urbanity and kindness of His Royal Highness are remembered there with grateful affection. His stay at Halifax was but short. He arrived there on the 8th of October; and, in the middle of November following, the *Pegasus* anchored in English Harbour, Antigua, where the Prince had the pleasing satisfaction of meeting with Captain Horatio Nelson, then the senior officer on the Leeward Island station. The friendship that had before subsisted between these illustrious seamen, and which had been kept up by occasional correspondence, was now renewed; and they formed that permanent regard for each other, which became so highly honourable and beneficial to both. From this time, till their separation, they dined alternately with each other, and the Prince acknowledged many years afterwards, that—

“It was at this era he first formed his character as a naval officer, and was employed in a manner highly gratifying to his feelings. It was then,” added his Royal Highness, “that I particularly observed the greatness of Nelson’s superior mind. The manner in which he enforced the spirit of the navigation act, first drew my attention to the commercial interests of my country. We visited the different islands together; and, as much as the manœuvres of fleets can be described off the headlands of islands, we fought over again the principal naval actions in the American war. Excepting the naval tuition which I had received on board the *Prince George*, when the present Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Keats was lieutenant of her, and for whom both

of us equally entertained a sincere regard, my mind took its first decided naval turn from this familiar intercourse with Nelson."

The Prince entered most zealously into the various reforms which Nelson was now carrying on in the dock-yard at Antigua, and in correcting the abuses among the contractors and prize-agents. Nelson's opinion of his naval coadjutor appears in a letter written to his friend Captain Locker, December 29th this year.

"You must have heard, long before this reaches you," says he, "that Prince William is under my command. I shall endeavour to take care that he is not a loser by that circumstance. He has his foibles, as well as private men; but they are far overbalanced by his virtues. In his professional line he is superior to nearly two-thirds, I am sure, of the list; and in attention to orders, and respect to his superior officer, I hardly know his equal. This is what I have found him."

In another letter, written to the same gentleman, from Montserrat, on the 14th of February, 1787, Nelson says—

"I am here with the *Pegasus* and *Solebay*. The island has made fine addresses, and good dinners. To-morrow we sail for Nevis and St. Christopher's. His Royal Highness keeps up strict discipline in his ship, and, without paying him any compliment, she is one of the finest-ordered frigates I have seen. He has had more plague with his officers than enough. His first lieutenant will, I have no doubt, be broke. I have sent him under arrest, he having written for a court-martial on himself, to vindicate his conduct, because his captain thought proper to reprimand him in the order-book. In short our service has been so relaxed during the war,

that it will cost many a court-martial to bring it up again."

So far, however, from being broke, the officer here alluded to, was not even tried; and he not long afterwards became a post-captain.

Nelson was at this time on the eve of marriage; and, in a letter to the lady, he says:—"What is it to attend on princes? Let me attend on you, and I am satisfied. Some are born for attendants on great men; I rather think that is not my particular province. His Royal Highness often tells me, he believes I am married, for he never saw a lover so easy, or say so little of the object he has a regard for. When I tell him I certainly am not, he says, 'Then he is sure I must have a great esteem for you, and that it is not what is vulgarly called love.'"

The marriage of Captain Nelson and Mrs. Frances Nisbet, the widow of a physician at Nevis, took place in that island, March 11th, 1787. The bride was given away by his Royal Highness, who, with many others, congratulated their friend in having borne off the principal favourite of the island.

Nelson, writing to Captain Locker, ten days afterwards, off Tortola, says—"My time since November has been entirely taken up in attending the Prince on his tour round these islands. However, except Granada, this is the last; when I shall repair to English Harbour, and fit the *Boreas* for a voyage to England. Happy shall I be when that time arrives. No man has had more illness or trouble on a station than I have experienced; but let me lay a balance on the other side—I am married to an amiable woman; that far makes amends for every thing. Indeed, until I married her, I never knew happiness, and

I am morally certain she will continue to make me a happy man for the rest of my days. Prince William did me the honour to stand her father upon the occasion ; and has shewn every act of kindness that the most sincere friendship could bestow. His Royal Highness leaves this country in June, by which time I hope my orders will arrive, or that somebody will be appointed to the command."

In this tour of the Antilles, the Prince received, at every place where he landed, testimonies of sincere respect and admiration. The House of Assembly, at Barbadoes—the most English of all the islands, which he now visited—passed a resolution to present an address to his Royal Highness, accompanied with a gold-hilted sword of the value of three hundred guineas. That of Dominica presented to the Prince a chronometer of the same value.

The French were not less attentive to the illustrious navigator, who received invitations from the Vicomte de Damas, governor of Martinico, and the Baron de Clugny, governor of Guadaloupe, to favour those islands with a visit

As Antigua was the principal station of the ships of war, the people there had, of course, more opportunities of becoming acquainted with the commander of the *Pegasus* than the inhabitants of the other islands. In a letter, written from thence in February 1787, an eminent merchant and planter says to his friend in England—

" Prince William-Henry has been here for some time past, repairing his ship ; where all ranks are vying with each other in making grand entertainments for their illustrious visiter. The Prince is quite the officer, never wearing any other dress than his uniform, and his star

and garter only when receiving addresses, or on any other public occasion. He has not slept a night out of his ship since his arrival in these seas, until coming into English Harbour, when the ship's heaving down obliged him to be on shore. His Royal Highness shews the most amiable disposition and condescension on every occasion, sees into the detail of the business of his ship, and delivers his own orders with the most minute attention to the duty and discipline of the frigate. In short, he promises to be what we all hope and wish, the restorer of the ancient glory of the British navy."

During his short stay on this station, the Prince formed an intimacy with that valuable officer and admiral, then Captain John Holloway, commanding the Solebay frigate. Though junior in rank, he was some years older than Nelson, and remarkable for the blunt sincerity of his language. The plainness and rigid honesty of Holloway soon attracted the respect of the Prince; who shewed the innate excellence of his own heart, in receiving kindly the advice, which was sometimes more faithfully than courteously given.

Coming one day on board the Solebay, his Royal Highness observed a Bible lying open on the rudder-head. Then, addressing himself to Captain Holloway, he exclaimed, "Why, Jack, you are always reading the Bible! Are you going to write a commentary on it?" "No, sir," replied Holloway, "but the longer I read that book, the greater is my eagerness to return again to the perusal of its contents; for there I learn all the principles of my duty; and, among the rest, "*to trust in the Lord, and not to put confidence in Princes.*"

This plain dealing did not lessen the esteem which his Royal Highness had conceived for his nautical Mentor,

who accompanied him twice in his tour among the islands.

This excellent officer died suddenly at Wells, in Somersetshire, his native city, June 26, 1826, at the advanced age of eighty-four. The veteran had risen at six, his usual hour, apparently not worse than usual, and by eight he was a corpse. He entered the navy in 1760; but, though he had seen much service, and distinguished himself on many occasions as a lieutenant, he did not attain the rank of post-captain till he was near forty years of age. In 1782, he commanded the *Buffalo*, of sixty guns, and was attached to the fleet of Lord Howe, when that great admiral relieved Gibraltar. From that place he was sent to convoy the store-ships to Sardinia; which service, though very difficult, and in the face of the enemy, he effected. On rejoining the fleet within a much less time than could be expected, Captain Lord Leveson Gower congratulated the noble admiral on the event. Lord Howe replied, "The captain of the *Buffalo* has done his duty:" a laconic answer—but, from such a man, it was praise of sterling value.

Captain Holloway commanded the *Duke* at the time of the mutiny at Spithead, in 1797; and was one of the officers who, from their strict adherence to discipline, were turned ashore by the malcontents. His services, as a captain, ended in the *St. George*, which ship was named, when launched, as already noticed, by Prince William. In 1799, he was advanced to the rank of rear-admiral; in 1804, promoted to that of vice-admiral; in 1807, he was made governor of Newfoundland; in 1809, he was raised to the rank of admiral of the blue; and, finally, to that of the red. He was a man whose

character united, in an eminent degree, the virtues of undaunted courage and Christian piety.

Prince William was now very young, not having as yet reached his twenty-second year; and, therefore, as may well be supposed, standing in need of some able and honest counsellor. This he had in Captain Holloway; but the instructor he most valued, and by whom he most profited, was Horatio Nelson.

It is recorded of that great character, that, during the term of three years, in which he commanded the *Boreas* in the West Indies, not a single officer or man died, out of her whole complement. The mode he adopted was this:—he never suffered the ship to remain longer than three or four days off any island, at a time. The *Boreas* was always on the wing; and when it happened that any other ships were in company, the captain was continually forming the line, exercising his men, and chasing. In the hurricane months, when he was obliged to remain at anchor in English Harbour, he encouraged music, dancing, and cudgelling on board; and the officers, particularly the younger ones, acted plays; which kept up the spirits of the ship's company, and caused their minds to be constantly employed.

His example was closely imitated by the Prince; who, as already observed, co-operated zealously with his friend and preceptor, in examining and correcting the gross abuses which prevailed through every part of the naval service at Antigua. This energy and patriotism created enemies; and evil reports flew swiftly with every gale to England, not only against Nelson, but to the disadvantage of the Prince, whose indiscretions were multiplied ten times beyond the truth, and the circumstances were exaggerated by every art of colouring that

malice could invent. Remonstrances, not very mildly expressed, came back in course from head-quarters ; and admonitions, with cautions, as to future conduct and circumspection, were transmitted also by private friends or near connexions.

As long as Nelson remained on the station, the Prince felt himself secure under his protecting shield, and what might almost be termed paternal guardianship. But that steady associate, and excellent director, was now obliged to return ; and, in the month of June, the two friends separated—Nelson, for England ; and the Prince, for Port Royal in Jamaica. On taking leave, his Royal Highness was much depressed, and exacted a promise from Nelson, to stand his advocate in counteracting the reports that had been circulated, with perfidious industry, at home, to the detriment of his character while abroad, when he possessed not the means or opportunity of vindicating his injured reputation in person. This pledge Nelson gave most sincerely ; and he redeemed it amply, with the aid and experience of Captain Locker.

Unfortunately, when the Prince was deprived of his adviser, and left to act upon his own judgment, he did what much older men in the service might, perhaps, have been guilty of, in similar circumstances. Instead of waiting for instructions from the Admiralty, or placing himself under the orders of the commanding officer on the next station, he ran through the Gulf of Florida to Halifax ; from whence he was ordered to Quebec.

This destination was considered, and justly enough, as a kind of exile, not unlike the Russian mode of punishing high offenders against Imperial authority, by sending them to pass their days in Siberia.

Our high-minded Prince, ill-brooking the idea of being

locked up for a whole winter in the ice of the river St. Lawrence, took French leave, and steered for England, though his term of service wanted full six months of its completion. The resolution was exceedingly bold, considering the danger of the voyage at that season of the year, when the hazard of running on the numerous rocks and shoals, which abound in all directions through these seas, was increased by the dense fogs that cover the banks of Newfoundland, and frequently extend all the way to the coast of Ireland. The gallant Prince, however, fearless of these perils, and disregarding the consequences of his temerity, when he should be called to account for that and his previous conduct, persevered in his course, and on Tuesday, the 3rd of December, 1787, entered the Cove of Cork. On nearing the land, his Royal Highness, aware of the state in which he stood, and of the censure to which he was liable, prepared despatches to be transmitted home immediately, by his friend Charles Duke of Rutland, who, when he sailed, was viceroy of Ireland. But here again his Royal Highness was fated to experience a severe disappointment; for the first news that saluted him was, the intelligence of the death of the duke six weeks before, and the removal of his remains to England for interment. The Prince felt this as a private, no less than a public, loss; and such it unquestionably was, particularly to Ireland. The despatches were now sent to the Marquess of Buckingham, the successor of the Duke of Rutland, and by him were, without delay, forwarded to the Board of Admiralty. The Earl of Chatham, then the first lord, and the other commissioners, immediately assembled, and sent off a messenger to Windsor, with the letter which the Prince had written to his Royal Father, in

justification of his general conduct abroad ; and, in defence of the measure he had now adopted, of returning home without leave. The next morning, his Majesty came to town, and held a council on this unpleasant concern : the result of which was, an immediate order for the Pegasus to proceed to Plymouth.

Meanwhile, the Prince received every attention from the civil authorities and gentry of Ireland. His Royal Highness was waited upon by the Mayor of Cork, Mr. James Kingston, with whom he dined at the Mansion House of that city ; as he afterwards did with the merchants, at the King's-arms. He also went to the assembly-room, where he danced with Miss Kellett, daughter of one of the aldermen ; and with Miss Lane, whose father had been town-clerk of Cork. From thence, the Prince went to Youghall ; and there, also, he dined with the corporation. He next visited, accompanied by the high-sheriff, Sir Richard Musgrave, the Earls of Shannon and Grandison ; and lastly, the Marquis of Waterford, at whose seat his Royal Highness received the letter which recalled him to England. In obedience to this command, he set off immediately for Cork, and proceeded to sea ; but, on entering the British Channel, the ship was struck by a violent thunder-storm, which tore the sails to ribands, shivered the mainmast, and did other damage. On the 27th of December, the Pegasus came into the Hamoaze, at Plymouth, after an absence of eighteen months ; and the next day she went into dock to repair.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1788 TO 1789.

WHEN the Prince landed at Plymouth, it was with the intention of proceeding instantly to London, as well to explain those circumstances, which had been grossly misrepresented, to his disadvantage, as to see his family, particularly the Duke of York, who had arrived in England during his absence. Great, therefore, was the chagrin of his Royal Highness, at finding that he was interdicted from leaving the harbour of Plymouth, till he received permission so to do from the Admiralty board. The Pegasus was, therefore, kept in commission, and the Prince ordered to remain, for the purpose of superintending those repairs of which she stood in need.

This, it must be confessed, was hard measure—but, after all, it cannot be called unjust; for, in every service, and in none more than in the navy, discipline and obedience are indispensable. No one could be more sensible of this than the King; and with this feeling, he knew that it would be the height of injustice to punish others for what he excused in his son. When George the Third devoted the Prince to the marine service, he laid it down as a fixed principle, that he should pass through every stage of it in the regular way, and be obliged, when in a subordinate station, to discharge all the duties belonging to that department; as, without such a progressive course, it would scarcely be possible,

that he should know how to discriminate between those who might merit reward and promotion, and those who deserved reprehension and degradation.

It has already been seen, in the complaint of that great and experienced officer, Nelson, that the British navy was, at this very period, in such a state of disorganization, as to require a long time to bring things into a proper condition. Lord Howe, also, was so convinced of this deterioration, that, at the commencement of his brief government as first lord of the Admiralty, he set himself zealously about effecting a change, by drawing up a new code of regulations, for the better discipline of the navy. Among these articles, none could be more strict than those which respected the conduct of the officers; but especially that of the captain, who on no account was to leave the ship, when in England, without permission from the board; or, if abroad, to quit that station to which he was appointed, unless ordered home, or sent on a different service, by the commander under whose orders he might be placed.

It is obvious, that a breach of these rules, if permitted, must inevitably ruin the navy, and prove destructive to our colonial settlements, by depriving them of protection in the event of a war. For, were one captain allowed to quit his post at pleasure, another would claim the same privilege, and exercise it whenever he became dissatisfied with the particular station to which he was attached, or with the senior officer who held the command. In the present case, the example was of a very peculiar and serious character. The Prince was known to be a strict disciplinarian himself; and Black Monday, on board the Pegasus, when the register-book, describing offences and exhibiting the names of

offenders, was publicly read for the allotment of punishment, rarely proved a blank day, much less one of festivity.

Such being the case, the violation of the primary rule of service in the captain, was one that could not, consistently with equity, and a regard to the general welfare, be passed over without censure, or some mark of displeasure. The board of Admiralty certainly stood in an awkward situation, and therefore submitted all the circumstances, and the adjudication, to the King; whose decision was, that the Prince should continue within the limits of Plymouth garrison for as many months as he had been absent from his station, and then to be sent abroad again to Halifax and the West Indies.

The sentence was communicated in due form to the Prince, by the Admiralty; and his Royal Highness submitted to the decree, without impugning its justice.

As the Prince could not leave Plymouth, his two elder brothers resolved to visit him, in what might, truly enough, be called his prison. They, accordingly, left Carlton House on the 6th of January, 1788; and, on the 8th, reached the Dock, now Devonport.

On their arrival, Prince William hastened to meet them; and it was represented, by one who witnessed it, as an affecting sight, to behold the three royal brothers assembled together, after so long a separation. The next morning the Princes, attended by several naval and military officers, visited the dock-yard, and surveyed every object of interest or curiosity with minute attention. In the evening they dined with a select party, and, at eleven o'clock, proceeded to the long-room, at Stonehouse, where was an assemblage of the principal ladies and gentlemen of Plymouth and the neighbourhood.

When the three Princes entered arm-in-arm, the eldest in the centre, they received the compliments of the whole company, which they returned with affability, ease, and dignity. The royal personages, in the course of the evening, danced with Mrs. Depeister, Miss Fanshawe, Miss Wynne, Miss Calton, and Miss Arthur, the reigning beauties of Plymouth. About one in the morning, they retired to rest. On the following day, their Royal Highnesses went afloat; and the whole fleet in Hamoaze manned the yards, and saluted with twenty-one guns each. After riding to Maker Heights, and taking a survey of Whitsand Bay, Penlee Point, and the Ram Head, the Princes returned to Dock—dined—and in the evening went again to the Long-Room, where the night was spent as before, “frisking light in frolic measure.”

The next day, the two elder Princes, taking coach at the barrier-gate, drove through the town very slowly, and, being again saluted from the ramparts of the citadel with twenty-one guns, bade adieu to their brother, and set out on their return to London.

Soon after this, Prince William was visited at Plymouth by his friend Nelson, who remained here some weeks, during which period, they were consulted by some of the gentlemen of Antigua, respecting a reform of the prevalent abuses in that island. In answer to a letter which he had just received on that subject, Nelson said, “You may rest assured, that no steps shall be left untaken by me, to accomplish the discovery of these mal-practices, and to get you the reward which, I have not the least doubt, you will so well merit. I must, nevertheless, apprise you, that my interest in this country is very small; therefore do not build on what I

can do for you. Indeed, little else but my integrity and public spirit can bring such a humble individual as myself into notice: however, the goodness of the cause we are engaged in, will support itself at all times; more especially, I dare say, with such an upright character as Mr. Pitt. His Royal Highness commands me to say, that, were he placed in a situation where he could be of any service to this cause, he would most assuredly sift it to the bottom; but that, at present, not having been from this port since his arrival, he can only give his good wishes for the accomplishment of what you have begun."

Though many difficulties occurred, and much delay was experienced, in this work of reform, the investigation now set on foot had the effect of producing an immense saving to Government, and of preventing such extensive frauds in future.

In the summer, the *Andromeda* frigate was put in commission, and the command given to Prince William-Henry, but under the special direction of Admiral Gower. The present admiral, Sir Charles Morrice Pole was the first-lieutenant; and the late Dr. Majendie, the Prince's former tutor, was appointed chaplain of the ship, and private-secretary to his Royal Highness.

After cruising some weeks in the Channel, from Dungeness to the Lizard, and along the coast of France, the admiral returned to Cawsand Bay on the 21st of July; and, immediately, on his landing, the *Andromeda* proceeded again to sea, for Halifax, where she arrived at the end of August.

From this concise statement of simple facts, the reader will judge of the degree of credit due to the following

relation, contained in one of the light sketches of the day, written more with a view to gratify vitiated tastes, and minister to unworthy feelings, than with any desire of exhibiting truth.

After noticing the arrival of Prince William at Plymouth, the author says,—“He found himself in disgrace on his return, in consequence of his having overdrawn his money bills. The excess of the young Prince’s expenditure over his income, was accounted for, in the same manner as his elder brother’s, by the insufficiency of his allowance; and his vindication was borne out by a fact. He was allowed only £1,200 a year for his table, as captain of a frigate, after Admiral Digby had been allowed £1,000 a year for his table as a midshipman. This accords with the King’s character—he was parsimonious to the members of his family, and in his own habits, but prodigal in personal favouritism and parliamentary corruption. The common crowd was artfully reconciled by his barren parsimony in the one case, to his oppressive prodigality in the other, and to the frequent discharge of the arrears of the civil list.

“Prince William was refused leave to quit his ship at Cork, for the purpose of visiting Dublin; and at Plymouth, the absence of invitation from the King, or leave from the Admiralty, apprised him that his presence was not desired at Buckingham House. The Prince of Wales and Duke of York joined, and passed some days with him at Plymouth, which, for the time, was enlivened by festivities and illuminations. Prince William could not obtain leave to quit his ship; but it was said, that, like a true sailor, he consoled himself with falling in love. The supposed object of his affection was a young

lady, named Wynne, the daughter of a merchant. He was passing his time very agreeably at Plymouth, when a sudden order sent him to sea again, in command of the *Andromeda*, with Admiral Gower. The motive of this order was, to separate him from the lady; and a trick was at the same time played upon him by the Admiralty. His ship, when he sailed, not being provided for a foreign station, he supposed himself going only on a short cruise. When the day came for the separation of the *Andromeda* from the squadron, he was informed that his destination was the West Indies; and that, to prevent the delay of his returning for stores, the *Andromeda* should be provided from some of the other ships, which 'had luckily brought out the proper supply.' He obeyed the signal for parting—walked the quarter-deck in no very tranquil mood—'muttered a prayer or two,' with more energy than devotion, for the first lord of the Admiralty—and ordered the master to direct his course for Antigua."

Here we have a little truth, but more falsehood; and the whole blended and coloured, with an obvious design to vilify and bring into contempt the living as well as the dead.

Every person at all acquainted with the economy of the navy, must be aware, that the allowances to officers are necessarily different, according to the respective rates of the ships, the nature of the service, and the professional rank of the commanders. The grant to Admiral Digby was for a specific purpose, and therefore ought not to have been mentioned in the way of comparison. What the Prince subsequently received for the support of his cabin, in such a small vessel as the *Pegasus*, should be considered liberal, rather than par-

simonious, when added to the ordinary allowance of a post-captain on board a frigate. Besides which, it will bear a question, whether a more splendid establishment would not have been injurious to the service, by introducing a spirit of emulative prodigality, among officers who could ill afford such a competition, and, still worse, by drawing them aside from the path of true honour, to indulge in folly and amusement.

Lord Kames has well observed, that, according to our present manners, where luxury and selfishness prevail, it appears an egregious blunder to enrich a general or an admiral during his command. "This single error against good policy," says he, "has reduced Britain more than once to a low condition, and will ruin it at last." But there is no occasion to pursue any further argument on a calumny which carries its own refutation throughout; for, as to what is said of the Prince, that he was refused permission to visit Dublin on his arrival from the Halifax station, it is of the same complexion with the rest. No such refusal could be made—because no such favour was ever asked. It is true, that the Prince was not invited to Buckingham House; and the reason why he was not, has already been given. The amorous story is extracted from an idle romance published at the period; and the foolish one, of a trick played by the Admiralty to decoy the Prince to sea, is a clumsy invention, as void of all foundation of truth, as the obsolete tale of the meditated kidnapping of his Royal Highness's Grandfather, and transporting him to America. Yet this is history, according to the principles of the new school of literary morality, which, regardless of all consequences, assumes a right to adopt any fiction that may serve the purpose of party, and blacken the

reputation of public men. But to proceed with our narrative.

Prince William did not continue long at Halifax. In pursuance of his instructions, he sailed from thence, at the setting in of winter, to the West Indies; and in the middle of November arrived at his old station in the island of Jamaica. As the following anecdote has recently appeared in print, it cannot well be omitted in this record; though the story, it must be allowed, carries a very apocryphal appearance.

The *Andromeda* reached the harbour of Port Royal after dusk, and his Royal Highness, with the first-lieutenant, proceeded in the barge to the shore. They immediately, in their uniforms, entered the public-rooms, and the new-comer, as captain of one of his Majesty's ships, was good-humouredly greeted by the military officers, with whom he played several games at billiards. After some inquiries, the Prince requested his antagonist, the Colonel-commandant, to have the goodness to parade his regiment at day-light, as HE wished to INSPECT IT! The astonishment excited by such a request from a captain of the navy, was only equalled by the surprise, when, on explanation, it was discovered from whom it came.

Great was the joy of the inhabitants of Jamaica at having their favourite once more among them; and some of the principal persons of that important colony were inclined to hope, that on application, by petition, to the authorities in England, they might succeed in obtaining Prince William for their residentiary governor. Circumstances, however, shortly occurred, which put an end to the expectation, though not to the attachment that had so long subsisted between the islanders and their illustrious friend and advocate.

On the second of December, the House of Assembly voted one thousand guineas, to be laid out in the purchase of an elegant star, ornamented with diamonds, and presented to the Prince, as an 'humble testimony of the very high respect and esteem the Island entertains for his eminent virtues, and the happiness they feel at seeing him once more amongst them; as well as of the grateful sense they have of the particular attention which his Royal Highness pays to the duties of a profession, which is the support and defence of the British Empire in general, and of this island in particular.'

When the committee of the House waited on His Royal Highness, to request his acceptance of the star, he received them in the politest manner—declared himself unconscious of any merit that could entitle him to such a mark of regard—and assured them he should ever remember, with peculiar pleasure, their sentiments of loyalty and affection for his person.

During the Prince's stay, he attended the debates in the senate of Jamaica, with which he was much pleased; and particularly so with the resolutions then passed in his presence, for revising the code of slavery, and ameliorating the condition of the negroes..

This Colonial Act contained the following reforms, expressed in the simple language of men unused to technicalities and legal verbiage:—

First.—Every proprietor of a slave is prohibited from turning him away when incapacitated by age or sickness, but must provide for him wholesome necessities of life, under the penalty of ten pounds for every offence.

Secondly.—Every person who mutilates a slave shall pay a fine, not exceeding one hundred pounds; and be

imprisoned for a term, not exceeding twelve months; and, in very atrocious cases, the slaves to be declared free.

Thirdly.—Any person wantonly, or bloody-mindedly, killing a slave, shall suffer death.

Fourthly.—Any person whipping, bruising, wounding, or imprisoning a slave, not his property, nor under his care, shall suffer fine and imprisonment.

Fifthly.—A parochial tax to be raised for the support of negroes disabled by sickness and old age, having no owners.

The necessity of the last article will best appear in the relation of an incident which occurred some years before these regulations were made. The story is thus told, in a letter from a lady at Jamaica to one of her female friends in England.

“One morning, taking an airing along the piazza leading from Kingston to the fields, an old negro, who was sitting there, begged alms of me. I passed on without taking any notice of him; but immediately reflecting upon the poor fellow’s situation, being aged and a cripple, I turned back, and gave him a bit, (a silver coin almost fivepence in value,) telling him at the same time, that I had got but a few more remaining to myself. The negro expressed his gratitude and good wishes, and I went my way. Some days afterwards, having occasion to pass the same spot; I again saw the negro, seated as before: on my nearer approach, he made an effort to advance towards me, but his infirmities disabled him from getting further than a few steps, by which means I had an opportunity of proceeding without being interrupted. Upon this he called after me, but I still walked on, without regarding him; seeing which, he raised his voice to a higher pitch, begging me to speak with him for only one moment.

Curious to hear what the poor creature had to say, I returned; when he delivered himself to this effect:—that as soon as I had left him the other day, he concluded, from what I had said when I relieved him, that I was myself in distress; that it grieved him to see a lady in want; nor could be happy till he saw me again. He then pulled out a purse, containing twenty-eight doubloons, which he pressed me to accept, saying, that he could collect more, and quite sufficient to keep him from starving, but that a lady could not beg, and, therefore, must die for want of ‘*yam, yam,*’ meaning bread, if she had no money. I thanked the grateful creature for his sympathy; but told him, that I had got more money since I saw him, and therefore did not want it.

“I then asked him, ‘how his master suffered him to beg, since he was so old and decrepit?’ He told me, that now, since he could work no more, his master had discarded him, under the plea of giving him his freedom; but, in reality, to get rid of an encumbrance. He said, that he had been a slave from his infancy, and that his sores were occasioned by constant labour and hard usage. After presenting him another trifle, and cautioning him not to discover his money to any person, lest he might be robbed, I took my leave; reflecting on the affecting adventure I had experienced.”

At the end of January, 1789, the *Andromeda* sailed from Port Royal, and, after a tedious passage along the coast of America, reached her former station in Nova Scotia. Here the Prince first became acquainted with the melancholy condition of the King; and the agitated state of the nation, by the proceedings, then going on in Parliament, respecting the Regency Bill. In the course of those debates, when that part of the bill

for nominating the persons who should constitute the Queen's council, in the care of the King's person, came to be discussed, Lord North, in the House of Commons, moved, "that his Royal Highness Prince William-Henry be one of her Majesty's council:" but the motion was negatived; as also was that for nominating the Duke of York, and other members of the Royal Family. During these important, but stormy discussions, which were carried on in a most acrimonious spirit, no official communication was made to the absent Prince; perhaps, because he was not yet a peer in Parliament. His private letters, however, were from friends who took an active part, and were mainly concerned, in the great question then pending in the two houses. It may well be supposed, therefore, that his Royal Highness's feelings were wrought up to a pitch of intense anxiety on a subject of such moment, and which affected him so very nearly. But it was not till the beginning of April, that he received his letters of recall; and, on entering the Channel, after a speedy run of twenty-one days, he was greeted with the gratifying intelligence of his father's convalescence, and resumption of the regal functions.

The Prince landed at Spithead on the 29th of April; and on the 2d of May he arrived at Windsor, when he was immediately introduced both to the King and Queen, from whom he met with an affectionate welcome.

A fortnight afterwards, the London Gazette contained the following announcement:—"His Majesty has been pleased to grant to Prince William-Henry, and to his heirs male lawfully begotten, the dignities of Duke of the kingdom of Great Britain, and of Earl of the kingdom of Ireland; by the names, styles, and titles of Duke of Clarence, and of St. Andrew's, in the kingdom of

Great Britain, and of Earl of Munster, in the kingdom of Ireland."

The nation at this time exhibited, from one end to the other, a splendid scene of joy and gladness. The illuminations and entertainments in the metropolis were of a description infinitely surpassing any pageantry that had ever been known before, and certainly have never been equalled since.

Of these magnificent spectacles, the principal had passed previous to the arrival of Prince William; but, on the 29th of May, his Royal Highness was present at the gala of the French ambassador in Portman Square. This fête, though gorgeous, fell far short of that given at Ranelagh by the Marquess del Campo, the Spanish minister, who seems to have made it his study in what way he could lavish most money for the honour of his country. The supper-room, fitted up for the Queen and Royal Family, was under a rich canopy, in the form of a tent, made of white satin fringed with gold. The whole service was of solid gold, and the decorations corresponded in elegance. The table-cloth alone was of the value of ninety guineas. There were all sorts of the choicest fruits, and the most exquisite wines; some of which had been actually sent from Spain for the purpose.

There were two hundred other boxes, for the rest of the company; the lower ones being laid open, by the curtains of the tents drawing up; and all were served in the most luxuriant style.

In the interim between these two extravagant and perhaps rival entertainments, Prince William-Henry gave one on the 1st of June, at Willis's Subscription House, out of compliment to his brothers, and in honour of the title to which he had himself been just advanced.

The rooms were elegantly decorated with festoons of red and white roses, emblematic of union, and which, intermingled, made a most beautiful appearance. The apartment, where the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of York and Clarence sat, with their select friends, was splendidly ornamented with blue silk and flowers, in various combinations. At the upper end of the room were three transparencies, representing the armorial bearings of the royal brothers; on the right side were the Coldstream colours, with the insignia of the order of the Garter; on the left was a flag, with an anchor, and these words underneath, "UNITED FOR EVER."

It could not be concealed that, amidst all this outward shew of pleasure, there was, in the Royal Family, something that disturbed its repose, and divided one part from the other. If the entertainment given by the newly-created Duke was insufficient to excite suspicion, by its confining the festal union to the three Princes, whose banners were displayed on the occasion; the gala of the Spanish ambassador, on the day following, exhibited a proof that the shew of harmony was but ill supported. Though the three elder Princes were there, neither one nor the other sat at the same table with the rest of the Family, nor joined in the dance with the Princesses. The cause of all this was not long to seek.

The absence of Prince William during the late distressing crisis was to him a fortunate circumstance; for though his Royal Highness could not have borne any public part in the legislative proceedings then pursuing, it was not in the nature of things that he should view them with indifference, particularly in respect to the question of his brother's claim of hereditary right to the Regency, and to the unlimited exercise of all the regal powers during

the incapacity of the King. When, therefore, his Royal Highness returned home, he might have maintained the ground of neutrality with perfect safety ; for there was no dispute now subsisting to call him into the political field. Properly speaking, the subject was no more in existence, than as a mere matter of history and speculation. But the conduct of those persons who had figured most prominently in the contention could not all at once be forgotten, nor easily be forgiven. While the Royal patient lay in a state that demanded the absorption of all political differences, and the suspension of ambitious intrigues, cabals were incessantly at work, even in the very palace, for the purpose of effecting immediate changes in every department of the government. Carlton House exhibited all the significant appearances of intense anxiety, not that arising from concern and grief, but the impatience of hope, and the eagerness of expectation.

The birds of prey flocked from every quarter of the heavens, anticipating the immediate indulgence of their wishes in the partition of places and pensions, that had been assured to them for their fidelity to the Heir-apparent.

Even the convenient mask of decorum was laid aside by these insatiate place-hunters, who, dazzled with the rays that blazed suddenly around them, rushed forth in impetuous eagerness to profit by the change of circumstances ; each saying to his neighbour—let us hasten to the field of plunder :

“ The sun shines hot, and if we use delay;
Cold biting winter mars our hoped-for hay.”

With a little cautious discretion, the adventurers might have gained credit for their moderation ; and have

strengthened their interests, by contributing to the harmony of the royal household. But the intoxication of the moment made them insensible of every thing, except the fascinating charm of power.

The Heir-apparent, by setting himself up as the head of this party, now became responsible for their principles and practices, whether he in his heart approved them or not. It was impossible, indeed, to make any distinction between the Prince and the political body with whom he was associated. They were embarked in one desperate enterprise ; and, therefore, were fated alike to share the consequences. The storm came as suddenly as the sunshine had done ; and when the Prince's friends were on the very point of gathering the fruits of the harvest, the whole was swept from their grasp, leaving to them the bitter reflection of being the authors of their own disgrace.

To keep from the restored Monarch all knowledge of what had occurred in his family, and in Parliament, while he lay in a state of insensibility, would have been as impracticable, as to persuade him that the party who had been so forward in filling the throne before it was vacant, could either be his friends, or those of his son. George the Third must have been something more than man, if he had not felt with pain, conduct which so nearly resembled that of Harry of Monmouth, in taking the crown from the pillow of his dying father. But, whatever were the feelings of the King on his recovery, he only expressed them by silent reserve ; which, however, could not be mistaken, especially when the Queen deported herself with a similar chilliness. Taking all this as a repulsion, the two elder Princes withdrew from court ; and in that state of voluntary exile, their brother

found them on his arrival. A few days afterwards, the King sent a letter to Prince William, in which the royal writer stated, in strong terms, his disapprobation of the proceedings and connexions of the Prince of Wales throughout the late perilous crisis. This letter was communicated with permission to the Heir-apparent; who, when the King returned from his excursion to the western coast, wrote an exculpatory epistle to his Majesty, as follows :—

“ SIR,

“ Thinking it probable that I should have been honoured with your commands to attend on your Majesty on Wednesday last, I have unfortunately lost the opportunity of paying my duty to your Majesty before your departure for Weymouth. The accounts I have received of your Majesty's health have given me the greatest satisfaction; and should it be your Majesty's intention to return to Weymouth, I trust, Sir, there will be no impropriety in my then entreating your Majesty's gracious attention to a point of the greatest moment to the peace of my own mind, and one in which I am convinced your Majesty's feelings are equally interested. Your Majesty's letter to my brother the Duke of Clarence in May last, was the first direct intimation I had ever received that my conduct, and that of my brother the Duke of York, during your Majesty's late lamented illness, had brought on us the heavy misfortune of your Majesty's displeasure. I should be wholly unworthy the return of your Majesty's confidence and good opinion, which will ever be the first objects of my life, if I could have read the passage in that letter without the deepest sorrow and regret for the effect produced on your Majesty's mind, though at the same time I felt the firmest persuasion that your Majesty's generosity and goodness would never permit that effect to remain, without affording us an opportunity of knowing what had been urged against us—of replying to our accusers, and of justifying our-

was created Duke of Clarence. He entered into the society, amusements, and interests of the Prince with the same familiarity and zeal as the Duke of York; and afforded frequent matter for conversation by his naval frankness, and his whimsical application of that most figurative of all languages—the vocabulary of sailors. A curious rencontre was said to have taken place the morning after the French ambassador's gala, between him and the well-known Madame Schwellenberg. Having called at Buckingham House, he was shewn into a room in which he found this German favourite of the Queen. Upon his entrance, the lady retired precipitately; but soon returned to apologise for her rudeness, by saying, “she thought it was the Duke of York.” “And suppose it was the Duke of York!” said the enraged sailor, saluting her ears with a quarter-deck rebuke, of which the only part that can be cited, was the threat of “a stinging dozen before all the pages of the back stairs.”

What is here said of the Prince's intention to create his brother a peer is true; but the act would not have been his, any farther than that of carrying into effect, what had been long before determined. When the second son of George the Third received the title of York, the King himself resolved to revive that of Clarence, in favour of Prince William. The patent was even made out in due form, and waited only the arrival of his Royal Highness, and the sign-manual, to be completed.

The other story calls for particular notice.

Madame Schwellenberg came to England with the Queen, whose attendant she was from the infancy of her Majesty, to the last hour of her own existence, which

terminated very suddenly in 1797, at Buckingham House. At the period when the fore-castle scene is said to have happened, the German lady was near, if not quite, sixty years of age; is it therefore credible that the Prince, who, when a child, had been a favourite of Madam Schwellenberg, could so far lose sight of what was due to his own rank, as to behave in such a manner towards the friend of his youth, and that, too, without any provocation?

The very supposition of his being capable of such a flagrant breach of good manners would be a serious impeachment of his character as a man of honour; and, therefore, the publication of the story, whether it be false or true, can be considered in no other light than as a designed injury to his reputation, by representing him as having contracted at sea nothing better than low habits and vulgar language.

Should it be said that the circumstance, even if it actually occurred, is not of moment, and that, being reported by a concealed writer, it is little calculated to do mischief, let the answer be in the words of our immortal dramatist:—

“ The instruments of darkness tell us truths;
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us
In deepest consequence.”

BOOK THE SECOND.

CHAPTER I.

ON the 8th of June, 1789, Prince William-Henry was introduced into the House of Lords, and took the oaths and his seat as DUKE OF CLARENCE, being the fourth possessor of that royal distinction in the course of five centuries. As the history of the title, and of those who have enjoyed it, may be said to be curious, and is but little known, we shall be excused for devoting some pages to the subject.

Clare, in Suffolk, on the river Stour, gave the title of Earl, first to Gilbert, the son of Richard Fitz-Gilbert, who is styled in the pedigree, "Seigneur de Clare-en-Caux," that is, of Caux, in Normandy, whence the family originated. This Earl Gilbert married Adeliza, daughter of the Earl of Claremont, and had issue, Richard, the second Earl of Clare, and Gilbert, surnamed Strongbow, created by King Stephen Earl of Pembroke, which last lord died in 1149.

The last-mentioned Richard Fitz-Gilbert, Earl of Clare, and Lord of Tonbridge, married Adeliza, sister to Randolph de Meschines, Earl of Chester, by whom he had two sons, Gilbert and Roger. Gilbert, who styled himself Earl of Clare and Hertford, died without issue,

and was succeeded in the above honours by his brother, called Roger the Good. His son Richard married Amicia, daughter and one of the heirs of William, Earl of Gloucester, and had issue, Gilbert, who succeeded his father in the titles of Clare and Hertford; to which he added, in right of his mother, the earldom of Gloucester. He married Isabel, sister of Anselm Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, and died in 1230. Richard de Clare, who next succeeded to the honours of Clare, Hertford, and Gloucester, married Margaret, daughter of Hugo de Burgh, Earl of Kent; and, secondly, Matilda or Maud, daughter of John Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. By this last lady he had issue, first, Gilbert, the seventh earl; second, Thomas, who became Steward of the Royal Forest in Essex; third, Bevis, styled Treasurer of York Minster, and four daughters.

Gilbert, surnamed the Red, succeeded Richard as Earl of Clare, Hertford, and Gloucester. He had also two wives; first, Alice, daughter of Hugh de Brun, Earl of Angoulesme, by whom he had one daughter, Isabel; and secondly, Joan, surnamed of Acres, daughter of King Edward the First, by whom he had issue, one son, Gilbert, and three daughters, Eleanor, Elizabeth, and Margaret.

Gilbert de Clare, the only son of the last-mentioned Gilbert, is said to have died young, leaving the inheritance to his sisters; after which, the title of Clare fell to the crown, and the name was changed to Clarence.

Another account, however, states that this last Gilbert was slain at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, leaving a son, also called Gilbert, who, dying issueless, was the last Earl of Clare.

It merits notice in this place, that one of the first barons whose signature and seal were affixed to the Great

Charter of English liberty, was Richard, the second Earl of Clare; and that the name of his uncle Gilbert stands the tenth on the list.

The dignity of Clare remained dormant till the marriage of LIONEL, surnamed of Antwerp, third son of King Edward, to Elizabeth de Burgh and Clare. In virtue of this alliance, the Prince became Earl of Ulster in Ireland, to which country he went in 1362, with an army of fifteen hundred men, to secure his property in that kingdom. At the meeting of Parliament in Westminster, on the 13th of November that year, he was created Duke of CLARENCE, which, as before observed, is only another termination of the ancient title. The day on which this elevation took place was celebrated by the King as a jubilee, on account of his completing the fiftieth year of his age. That the people might rejoice sincerely on the occasion, all prisoners, except those of unpardonable crimes, were released; debtors of every description were discharged; and exiles were recalled. Upon a petition from the Commons, it was also ordered by the King, that all pleadings, which before were in French, should be made in English, that the subject "might understand the law by which he holds what he hath, and to know what he doth."

At the same time was passed a statute for purveyors, enacting, that no provisions for the King's court should be taken up without the consent of the owners, and the payment of ready money at the fair market price.

In 1363, the Duke of Clarence was deprived of his duchess, who was buried in the church of the Benedictines, at Clare, which, with the priory annexed, was founded by the first earl of the family. The duchess left only one child, a daughter, named Philippa, who married

Edmund Mortimer, Earl of Marche, by whom she had a son, Roger, whose daughter Ann, on the death of Richard the Second, was the rightful heir to the throne, which was, however, usurped by Henry the Fourth; and this laid the foundation of the long and bloody wars between the two houses of York and Lancaster.

Elizabeth de Clare, wife of Duke Lionel, founded, in 1347, Clare Hall, in the University of Cambridge, after remaining a widow seven or eight years.

Lionel, Duke of Clarence, married Violante, the daughter of the Duke of Milan; where, say some of our chronicles, the people feasted him to such a degree, that he died soon after, without any issue by that princess. Whatever truth there may be in this strange story, it is certain that the second nuptials of the duke were speedily followed by his funeral; and that his remains, being brought to England, were deposited near those of his first duchess, in the priory of Clare. He was born at Antwerp in 1338, and died in 1371. Of all the family, Lionel, Duke of Clarence, most resembled his father king Edward, and his brother the Black Prince, in the noble qualities of honour, heroism, and generosity.

In 1412, Henry the Fourth having deposed and murdered Richard the Second, and deprived the descendants of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, of their right to the crown, bestowed the ducal title, by patent, upon his second son Thomas Plantagenet, whom he had before created Earl of Aumerle, or Albemarle.

This THOMAS, Duke of Clarence, accompanied his brother Henry the Fifth to France, where he distinguished himself greatly by his prowess, being always in the front of danger, and the last out of it, whenever he was engaged.

At the siege of Harfleur, the duke led the van of the army, and invested the town, after passing the river in the face of a numerous force of horse and foot, whom he compelled to retire within the walls for safety. This done, the King on one side kept all supplies and succours from entering the place; while the Duke of Clarence, on the other, battered the town with cannon charged with great stones.

Besides these pieces of ordnance, "the duke," say our old historians, "employed other engines, of such prodigious force, that they threw up into the air masses of rock and millstones of an immense magnitude, which crushed every thing that came in their way, and destroyed a vast number of houses." On the reduction of Harfleur, the Duke of Clarence returned to England with part of the army, while the King, at the head of the remainder, proceeded towards Calais. The duke, however, rejoined his brother time enough to share in the laurels of Agincourt—a battle to which, in all its great circumstances, that of Waterloo bore a striking resemblance. Shortly after this glorious victory, the Emperor Sigismund landed in England, and was conducted to London by the Duke of Clarence; an historical incident, not otherwise meriting notice, than as having obtained a parallel in the memorable visit of the Russian and Prussian Monarchs in a ship commanded by our Royal Admiral, and present Sovereign.

On the 23d of July, 1417, King Henry and his brother, the Duke of Clarence, embarked again for France, with a long train of nobles and knights. After taking possession of several towns and castles, the English army marched against Caen, which was strongly fortified. The King, apprehensive that the French garrison would

set fire to the suburbs, sent his brother forward with one thousand men, to prevent the design. When the duke arrived, he found the houses in flames, which the soldiers soon extinguished, and thus secured quarters for themselves. Possession was also taken of the abbey of St. Stephen in a very remarkable manner. The French, intending to make use of this monastery as an outpost for the defence of the city, had filled it with soldiers; but upon the approach of the English, they resolved to quit it, with the treasures, and set the building on fire.

One of the monks overhearing the design, got out at midnight, undiscovered, and came to the duke, who was lying in his armour, upon the grass in a garden, with a stone for his pillow. The monk earnestly entreated him to preserve a religious house which his royal ancestor had founded, and offered to be his guide to that part which was unguarded, and where the place might be easily surprised. The duke, upon this, ordered his men to bring their scaling ladders, and follow silently the directions of the monk. They did so, and mounted the wall without resistance.

At the storming of the city, the Duke of Clarence was the first that entered, and, after forcing his way through some troops which defended the bridge, he marched along the streets till he came to the quarter where the King was making his assault, and to which part most of the garrison had hastened to oppose him. The duke, by falling upon their rear, threw them into confusion, and, his soldiers having forced open the gates, the King at the head of the army entered without further resistance.

The valour of the Duke of Clarence was equally conspicuous and successful at the siege and capture of

Rouen, for which he obtained large grants of lands in Normandy. By taking Ponthoise, the duke opened the way to Paris, before which city he soon appeared; and, in consequence, the whole of the French court fled to Troyes.

A truce now followed, and a treaty was concluded, by which the King of England, on his marriage with the Princess Catherine, was declared heir to the crown of France; Charles the Dauphin being deprived of all right to the same, for his treacherous murder of the Duke of Burgundy. The marriage having been celebrated with great pomp, Henry took his Queen to England, that her coronation might be performed with the accustomed solemnities at Westminster.

Meanwhile, the Duke of Clarence, who held the command of the army in his brother's absence, as lieutenant-general, hearing that the Dauphin was collecting a large force in Anjou, hastened with a body of his best troops into that province, which was decidedly in the interest of the disinherited Prince, who had also the assistance of seven thousand Scots, under the Earl of Buchan. The French and their allies having joined, advanced to Baugy, or Beaujeu, to impede the progress of the duke; but, it being Easter, they rested there, and, thinking that the English would be more inclined to devotional than to warlike exercises at such a season, they took no measures for their security against a sudden attack. The duke, as he sat at dinner, received intelligence of this carelessness; upon which, he rose immediately from table, and, putting himself at the head of his cavalry, galloped on, to charge the enemy in their post, leaving the body of the army to follow him, under the command of the Earl of Salisbury. His progress was so rapid,

and he came upon the outpost of the French so suddenly, that they fled, and took refuge in a church, from the tower and roof of which they threw down stones and other missiles upon their assailants, who were endeavouring to break open the doors. By this time, the alarm spread, and brought up a party of Scotch archers, who annoyed the English so much, that the duke dismounted, and, with his men, fought on foot. The bowmen now gave way, and would have been driven from the field, had not the Earl of Buchan appeared with his cavalry, just as the Duke of Clarence was in the act of remounting his horse. A fierce combat ensued between the two foes, whose animosity to each other was inveterate, to a degree that far exceeded even the hatred of the French to the English. The duke, though severely wounded in the face by the thrust of a lance, rushed forward to encounter the Earl of Buchan, who, with one blow of his truncheon, felled him to the ground, and he was killed instantly. The English being disheartened by the loss of their princely leader, abandoned the field, and the darkness of the night covered their retreat.

Buchanan, in his usual spirit of exaggeration, says, that more than two thousand of the English fell at this battle of Baugy; but the foreign historians, who had better means of information, state the entire loss to have been fifteen hundred.

The body of the Duke of Clarence, in the rich armour which he wore, and the coronet of gold, adorned with jewels, that ornamented the helmet, was put by the enemy into a cart, to be carried to the Dauphin, who then lay at Touraine. But they did not long keep either that or the field of battle; for, though the English infantry could not advance soon enough to save their

royal commander, they came up in sufficient time to rescue his remains from the enemy, who made a precipitate retreat. The corpse of the duke was then conveyed to Rouen, from whence it was sent to England, and interred with great solemnity at Canterbury. Thomas, Duke of Clarence married Margaret, the daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and the widow of John Beaufort, Earl of Pomfret or Pontefract. By the duchess, who survived him, the duke had no issue; but he left a natural son, who is known in history only under the cognomen of The Bastard-of-Clarence John.

The king greatly lamented the loss he had sustained in the death of his brother, to whom he was much attached; notwithstanding the caution which he had received from his father, to be on his guard against the designs of Clarence. "He is," said the dying monarch, "a man of an ambitious spirit and daring courage; who, reckless of consequences, will aim at the highest dignity, and should he succeed, the nation will suffer dreadful miseries; the thought of which makes me repent that I ever meddled with the crown." In this foreboding, Henry the Fourth was mistaken. No man could be more esteemed than Thomas Duke of Clarence, both at home and in France, for his valour and his virtue: though it must be admitted that he wanted discretion, of which the manner of his death is a proof.

GEORGE PLANTAGENET, the second son of Richard Duke of York, who was killed at the battle of Wakefield, was created Duke of Clarence by his brother Edward the Fourth on June 29th, 1461. At the same time, Richard, the younger brother of Edward, was made Duke of Gloucester, and both creations were confirmed by the Parliament which assembled at Westminster the same year.

On the 11th of July, 1469, George, Duke of Clarence, being then scarcely twenty, was married at Calais to Isabella, the daughter and co-heiress of the great Earl of Warwick, commonly called "the King-maker." The earl, who was then governor of that important fortress, returned soon after with his son-in-law to England, and both were well received by the King; who, however, within three months, issued a commission of array against his brother and others, therein named, "as rebels that had confederated to liberate Henry of Lancaster from the Tower, and to place him on the throne."

Notwithstanding this, such was the strange fluctuation of things at that period, the commission was superseded; and, in less than three months, Warwick and Clarence were empowered to levy forces, to suppress a rebellion raised in Lincolnshire by Sir Robert Wells. The king marched himself in the same direction, and for the same object; but suddenly changed his course, and hastened to Windsor. This conduct so offended the Earl and the Duke, that they instigated Wells to continue in arms, by promising him their co-operation and assistance. He accordingly held the field, was defeated, and with his father, Lord Wells, who had not joined in the enterprise, suffered death. Wells before his execution made a confession, which obliged Warwick and Clarence to hasten out of the kingdom. They sailed from Dartmouth for Calais, but were refused admittance by the deputy governor; who would not even suffer the Duchess of Clarence to land, though she was very sick, and had been delivered of a son only two or three days before, on board the small vessel, in which the embarkation was so sudden, that they were almost destitute of common necessities. Having procured, though not without some difficulty, two

or three flagons of wine, and a little fine bread for the ladies, they proceeded along the coast to Harfleur, which harbour they entered on the second of May, and were hospitably entertained, both there and at the castle of Amboise, to which last place came Jasper Tudor, Earl of Pembroke, and John, Earl of Oxford. Here also, another extraordinary alliance took place, in the marriage of Edward, Prince of Wales, the son of Henry the Sixth, to Lady Anne Neville, the youngest daughter of the Earl of Warwick. A treaty was also entered into between Queen Margaret and the earl; by which it was agreed that the two parties should join against the reigning King, for the restoration of Henry; that the administration of the government, during the minority of Prince Edward, should be intrusted to Warwick and Clarence; and that in default of any issue of the marriage now contracted, the crown should devolve to the duke and his heirs.

As soon as King Edward was apprized of this coalition, he sent over to France a female attendant of the Duchess of Clarence, and much in her confidence. The object of this mission was to draw the duke off from his present connexion, by representing how injurious it was to his own interest, and that of his family. The arguments of the emissary succeeded; and the duke bound himself solemnly to forsake Warwick on the first favourable opportunity. While this negotiation was going on, the earl opened a different one with his brother Montacute, who stood high in the counsels of Edward, and was intrusted by him with a knowledge of all his designs. Notwithstanding this, Montacute pledged himself to support the cause of Warwick as soon as he took the field. Thus assured, the earl, with a small force, landed

at Dartmouth on the 13th of September, and, without delay, began his march into the interior; gathering strength at every step, so that in a few days he found himself at the head of sixty thousand men.

Edward was then in the north, but, on hearing of this descent, he retraced his steps, and, relying on the fidelity of Clarence, came in view of the Lancastrian army near Nottingham. Here he encamped, with the intention of giving battle in the morning; but, while reposing in his tent, he was suddenly roused with the shout of "Henry and Lancaster!" raised by the division of Montacute. Alarmed by this defection, which soon spread into other quarters, Edward fled with all speed, and got to Lynn, where he embarked for Flanders.

Clarence, having thus been prevented from fulfilling his promise, appeared more than ever zealous for the cause in which he had engaged. The army now proceeded to London, where Henry was immediately released, and, a new Parliament being called, Edward was attainted, and the line of succession restored to Henry the Sixth; but, on failure of his male issue, the crown was to go to the Duke of Clarence, and his descendants for ever. The duke was further rewarded with the lands of the Duchy of York, and associated with the Earl of Warwick in the Regency of the kingdom during the minority of the Prince of Wales.

Henry, therefore, had now only the semblance of a crown; and, though released from the Tower, it was only an exchange of one prison for another. Meanwhile, Edward was not idle. Aided by the Duke of Burgundy, he landed with a small force at Ravenspur, on the 14th of March, 1471; but, at York, he was compelled to take an oath before the altar, that he had no

other design than that of recovering his family estates. Upon this declaration, he was suffered to proceed to London, which he entered without resistance. Warwick at this time lay encamped at Leicester, waiting to be joined by Montacute and Clarence, whose dilatory proceedings excited suspicion of their sincerity.

A junction, however, was effected; and the three chiefs, on the 12th of April, being Good-Friday, encamped at Barnet. In the night, the Duke of Clarence, with twelve thousand men, stole off, and joined the army of his brother; which treachery, though it weakened the power, did not alter the resolution of Warwick, nor would he condescend on the following day to receive any overtures from his faithless son-in-law, or the King, his brother.

As soon as it was light on Easter day, the Earl began the battle, which raged, with unabated fury on both sides, for six hours. Victory hung in suspense, till one division of the Lancastrians fell upon another in mistake, and thereby threw the whole army into confusion. Warwick, in the desperate effort to recover the advantage which he had lost, was slain, with his brother Montacute; and then a general rout ensued.

Queen Margaret and her son landed at Weymouth on the very day of the battle. Notwithstanding which, she was led by her evil genius to advance as far as Tewkesbury, where, on the 9th of May, after an obstinate contest, she was made prisoner; and though the Prince escaped, he was soon betrayed into the hands of the victor. Edward at first affected to treat the young captive kindly, but quickly altered his behaviour, and brutally struck him on the face with his gauntlet. Clarence, Gloucester, and some others, taking this for a signal, hurried the Prince into another room, where they

butchered him with their poniards ; though, according to other accounts, the deed was perpetrated in the presence of the King.

• What rendered this foul act most atrocious on the part of Edward, was, its being done in direct violation of his own proclamation, which ran thus, “ that whosoever should bring forth Prince Edward, alive or dead, should have an annuity of one hundred pounds, and the Prince’s life to be saved, if he were brought forth alive.” But base as Edward was, his guilt fell short in this instance of the turpitude of Clarence, who was not only nearly allied to the unfortunate Prince, but his sworn guardian, and bound by the solemn obligation of an oath to render him fealty and protection.

But the murder did not go unrequited. Some time after, Gloucester, allured by the wealth of the widow of the Prince of Wales, endeavoured to get possession of that and her person by marriage. Clarence, from a motive equally sordid, opposed him ; and the lady, naturally enough, refused her hand to the murderer of her first husband. She sought refuge in the sanctuary of St. Martin, Westminster ; from whence she was taken, disguised as a cook-maid. Upon this, an appeal was made to the King, who decreed, that the lady should become, with or without her will, the wife of Richard ; and that the largest part of her portion of the Warwick estate should go to Clarence ; while the mother of the heiresses, by whom most of the property came, was left destitute.

On the 14th of December, 1476, the Duchess of Clarence died in child-bed, and was buried in the abbey of Tewkesbury. The funereal rites had not long been solemnized, when the widowed Duke made overtures of

marriage to the young heiress of Burgundy, whose mother, though sister to Clarence, encouraged the proposals. King Edward, on the other hand, supported the suit of the Earl of Rivers, brother to the Queen; and this difference being fomented by the artful contrivance of the Duke of Gloucester, accelerated the ruin of Clarence. The confederates began their operations with bringing one of the Duke's dependants to the gallows, on the most frivolous charge of seditious expressions. Clarence resented this act with becoming spirit, and reproached the King, as guilty of cruelty and ingratitude. Edward had now a plea to proceed. He called a council of his sycophants; to whom he made such a report, that, without hesitation, the Duke was committed to the Tower, never to come out, except to undergo a mock trial, and receive judgment.

He appeared at the bar of the House of Lords, and there the King, in defiance of all honour and decency, stood forward in person as his accuser. Against such an advocate, no one that regarded his own life could plead. The articles of attainder were many, but all of them weak and ridiculous. One of them charged Clarence with sorcery, and practising necromancy, to destroy the life of his brother. Absurd as all this was, it found credence from willing hearers, or, at least, such as dared not act otherwise than condemn one whose death was predetermined.

On the 11th of March, 1478, the sentence was carried into execution, but so privately, within the walls of the Tower, that the manner of it remains a mystery to this day. That it was not by the ordinary mode of decapitation is certain, for the body was exposed to public view previous to its interment at Tewkesbury. Common

report, which the chronicles have nearly all followed, states, that the duke, at his own desire, was suffocated in a butt of Malmsey wine, of which liquor he was extremely fond.

Thus perished in the prime of life, for he had not yet reached his twenty-ninth year, George Plantagenet, the "false, fleeting, perfidious Clarence."

He left by his duchess two children, full as unfortunate as himself. Edward the eldest, in right of his grandfather, became Earl of Warwick, and was put to death by Henry the Seventh, on account of his descent from the house of York. Margaret, his sister, married Richard de la Pole, and was created Countess of Salisbury by Henry the Eighth, who, however, caused her to be attainted and beheaded, either out of revenge at the conduct of her son, the famous Cardinal Pole, in opposing his divorce; or, from a jealousy of any pretensions she might set up to the throne, as the last of the line of Plantagenet.—So just is the language which Shakspeare makes Clarence utter immediately before his murder in the Tower :

Princes have but their titles for their glories,
An outward honour for an inward toil :
And for unfelt imaginations,
They often feel a world of restless cares :
So that, between their titles and low name,
There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

CHAPTER II.

A. D. 1789 TO 1791.

THE advancement of Prince William-Henry to the peerage rendered an establishment indispensable. To support the dignity, therefore, Parliament granted an income of twelve thousand a year; to which was added by the King, an unlimited table for his Royal Highness and his household; besides apartments lighted and warmed, under the management of the board of Green-cloth, and furnished and kept in repair by the Lord Chamberlain's office. The Duke also obtained, for his country residence, the Lodge in Richmond Park; with an order that it should be furnished, and kept up in the same manner as his house in St. James's Palace.

But his Royal Highness had scarcely taken possession of Clarence Lodge at Richmond, when a fire broke out, which did considerable damage before it was extinguished; and, what was worse, the Duke had to repair and furnish it at his own expense.

Much as it was to be lamented that the peace of the Royal Family should have suffered after the King's recovery, the public were pleased at seeing the three elder Princes living on terms of perfect union and mutual affection. An instance of this appeared at the old theatre of Drury Lane, on the 13th of October, 1789, when the

Prince of Wales, and his two brothers, sat in the same box. The play was the "Tempest," as altered by Dryden and Davenant; and it was got up in a showy style, with the introduction of new characters, spirits, ingenious machinery, and very splendid scenes.

The late Countess of Derby, then the fascinating Miss Farren, played to admiration the part of Dorinda; and, after the performance, she delivered, with equal effect, an epilogue, written for the occasion, by General Burgoyne. The charming actress, taking the magic wand of Prospero in her hand, touched upon the prevailing follies of the fashionable race of *petits-maitres*, and then, pointing to where the Princes sat, spoke these lines with exquisite feeling and emphatic expression :—

" But now, to shift the scene from men bewitch'd,
To one, with Britain's genuine sons enrich'd ;
In laws, in arms, their country's strength and pride
And chosen patterns for the world beside.
High o'er the crowd, inform'd with patriot fire,
Pure as the virtues that endear his Sire !
See one who leads, as mutual trials prove,
A band of brothers to a people's love :
One who in station scorns to found control,
But gains pre-eminence by worth of soul.
These are the honours that, on reason's plan,
Adorn the Prince, and vindicate the man ;
While gayer passions, warm'd at nature's breast,
Play o'er his youth—the feathers of his crest."

But, however flattering might be the praises of authors, and the plaudits of theatrical audiences, the public press took another turn, and spoke in a different language

concerning the royal band. The daily prints teemed with abuse of the Prince of Wales, and both his brothers who were characterized as confederating with a set of political profligates, against their august Parent, and demeaning themselves by other connexions of the most worthless description, in consequence of which it was found necessary to expel them from the court. The "Times" newspaper was the principal vehicle of these libellous attacks; and, accordingly, three prosecutions were instituted, by indictment, against John Walter, the printer and publisher. The first, which was a libel on the Duke of York, the Court of King's Bench sentenced the publisher to pay a fine of fifty pounds, to be imprisoned one year in Newgate, to stand one hour in the pillory at Charing Cross, and to find security for his good behaviour for seven years, himself in five hundred pounds, and two sureties, in one hundred pounds each. In the following term, the publisher of the "Times" was again brought up, to receive judgment for two other libels—one upon the Prince of Wales and Duke of York, in conjunction; the other, upon the Duke of Clarence, separately; who was directly charged with a breach of naval discipline, in quitting the station to which he had been appointed, without permission of the board of Admiralty, or of the commanding officer whose orders he was bound to obey. For the first of these alleged libels, Mr. Walter was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, and to endure an additional year's imprisonment in Newgate. For the second, he was only adjudged to pay a fine of one hundred pounds. These legal proceedings gave great offence, especially as they originated with a party that professed an extraordinary zeal for the freedom of the press.

On the 14th of January, 1790, the peace of the Royal Family was further disturbed by the unexpected arrival of Prince Edward, at Nero's hotel, in King Street, St. James's Square, from Geneva. His Royal Highness had been longer abroad for his education than he thought was consistent; and, finding that all his complaints were disregarded, he broke through all restraint, and in the depth of winter set out for England. It was early in the morning when he reached the hotel, from whence he immediately despatched a messenger with a note to his brother at Carlton House. The Prince was in bed, but got up directly, hastened to the hotel, and returned with his brother to Carlton House to breakfast. A consultation was then held with the Duke of York, who went to the Queen's Palace to mediate for the truant Prince. But all his intercession was in vain. An act of disobedience could not be passed over; and the Prince was sent off, a few days after, to join his regiment at Gibraltar.

At this time England was visited by a royal personage of a very different character. This was Philip, Duke of Orleans, who had twice before dazzled the sphere of fashion here by the splendour of his equipage, and the extravagance of his conduct. With the Prince of Wales, he had, at his first visit in 1783, when duke de Chartres, contracted a close acquaintance; and, on his fresh arrival, that intimacy was renewed, though it did not long continue.

What might be the purport of his present visit, could only be surmised; and the circumstances attending it were so remarkable, that conjecture was strained to discover the object. The revolution, of which he was certainly the prime mover and for a time continued, by his

immense wealth, to be the main-spring, was now gathering fast to a head.

While, therefore, many thought that pleasure only brought this profligate prince hither, others were inclined to suspect there must be something of a more serious nature at the bottom, and that, too, connected with the portentous movements then just shewing their frightful power and tendency. Previous to his departure from Paris, the duke presented the National Assembly with two millions and a half of livres, the supposed fourth part of his revenue ; for which he received the thanks of that body. Two years before this, a negotiation was carried on between the duke of Orleans and the Prince of Wales, for a loan to be advanced by the former, on a bond somewhat in the nature of a *post obit*, repayable at the death of the king. The whole business was conducted very privately ; but to what extent remains a secret to this hour. That it would have proceeded further, there can be little doubt ; and that the consequences would have been extremely dangerous, is morally certain. Fortunately, the business came to the knowledge of Calonne, the expatriated French minister, and by him the affair was communicated to the Duke of Portland, who marred the scheme by threatening exposure. There is too much reason to believe that the present mission of the duke had a covert design to renew the former treaty, or to offer to the Prince of Wales such assistance as would, while it relieved him from his embarrassments, have made him a dependent upon France. Here again the good genius of his Royal Highness interposed, in the person of Lord Thurlow, who plainly told the Prince, that any connexion with Orleans would be his ruin. This had its effect : and the duke, after lingering here some weeks,

returned, to complete what he had threatened, the destruction of Louis the Sixteenth and Marie Antoinette, at the risk of his own fortune and life.

The behaviour of this disgrace to human kind, at his trial and execution, surprised all who knew his previous history. When Duke de Chartres, he served in the French marine, under the Count d'Orvilliers, and was present at the action fought off Ushant, between that commander and Admiral Keppel. But in the early part of the engagement, the royal duke was lost; nor could it be ascertained whether he was alive or dead, till the fleet got into Brest, and then he came up from his hiding-place.

In one of his visits to England, the garrulous coxcomb rattled away, at the table of the Prince of Wales, in such a strain of vanity, that every body was disgusted; but no one ventured to oppose his volubility, till the discourse took a turn to sea-engagements. This also was a fine subject, upon which the Frenchman was authorized to talk, "for," said he, "you all know I have seen service." Our naval Prince archly observed, "Then, if you have seen service, it must have been in the dark."

Bertrand de Moleville, who knew Philip well, and has drawn his character in strong colours, relates the following anecdote of him:

"The cowardice which was inherent in the Duke of Orleans made him not only unfit to direct an extensive conspiracy, but to maintain the dignity and respectability of a gentleman!" A few days after his return from England, in 1790, being in the queen's apartments, M. de Goguelas took him by the shoulders, and, twirling him violently round upon his heels, said, in a very loud voice, "Ah! you here, you scoundrel! how dare you

appear in this place?" The duke bore this indignity without seeking any satisfaction, alleging that, as a prince of the blood, he was not bound to engage in a personal quarrel with a person of inferior station.

While on this worthless subject, it may not be amiss to notice another instance of the ingenuity of some writers in reviving stale anecdotes, and ascribing to personages of one age, what truly belongs to those of a former period. The compiler of the memoir of George the Fourth says, that Orleans when here, lived on terms of great intimacy with the Duke of Queensberry, which intimacy produced a bon-mot by the Prince of Wales. A sufficient knowledge of the French language was not among the attainments of the Duke of Queensberry, who yet valued himself on that qualification; and happening to speak, before the Prince, of his being on terms of friendship with the Duke of Orleans—"I understood," says the Prince, "that, on the contrary, you never agree." "Your Royal Highness is misinformed," replied the duke, "we have never had the slightest difference." "That is strange," rejoined the Prince, "for they say you never speak to him without giving him bad language."

Now this story, good or bad, belongs to Lord Chesterfield; who, when the King of Denmark was in England, said to Sir Thomas Robinson, then a favourite with the little monarch, that he was sorry to find he and his royal friend had differed. "You are mistaken, I assure you," replied the baronet: "we are upon the best possible terms." "I am glad of it," said the witty earl, "but I heard that much bad language passed between you." The Danish king could not speak English to be understood, and his admirer was almost as ignorant of French.

Orleans, now self-degraded to the revolutionary name of Egalité, when he was condemned, in November, 1793, to the scaffold, by men who were only one degree less infamous than himself, heard the sentence with *sang froid*, and, at his return to prison, ordered a dinner, of which he ate heartily, and, on being summoned to the guillotine, desired leave to drink a glass of wine with the gaoler. This was politely acceded to—after which he requested the honour of paying the same mark of respect to the under-turnkeys—which being also granted, Philip jumped into the cart, and, on reaching the place of execution, laid his head on the block, and perished amid the execrations of the multitude that he had corrupted, and by whom he had been so lately worshipped.

While the attention of the British public was fixed upon the perturbed state of things in France, the alarm of war was suddenly raised by a message from the King to parliament, containing information of the capture of two trading vessels, belonging to his majesty's subjects, on the north-west coast of America, by a Spanish officer; and of the direct claim set up by the court of Madrid to the exclusive sovereignty, navigation, and commerce of the seas in that part of the world. As no reparation had been made for the injury already sustained, and as the Spaniards were fitting out armaments to support their pretended rights, his Majesty said that he had judged it indispensably necessary to give orders to make such preparations as might enable him to act with vigour and effect in support of the honour of his crown, and the interests of his people.

This dispute was occasioned by the formation of a small commercial settlement at Nootka Sound, on the

coast of California ; for the liberty of which, an agreement had been regularly made with the native chiefs of the district, and to whom a price was paid for the land on which the establishment was erected.

In the summer of 1789, two vessels belonging to the settlers were seized, in the bay of Nootka, by the commander of a Spanish frigate, who made the crews prisoners, took possession of the land on which the buildings stood, pulled down the British flag, and hoisted that of Spain in its room, accompanying the act with a declaration, that all the coasts and territories, from Cape Horn to the sixtieth degree of north latitude, on that side of the American continent, belonged to his Catholic majesty.

As soon as the British government obtained certain information of these aggressions and pretensions, no time was lost in demanding satisfaction of the court of Madrid. This, however, was evaded, and every artifice was used to prolong the negotiation, for the obvious purpose of gaining time to support the obsolete rights of Spain, founded upon a papal grant in the fifteenth century.

When the royal message came under consideration on the sixth of May, the address moved by Mr. Pitt, approving the measure proposed as essential to the glory and interests of the country, was carried without one dissenting voice.

The language of Mr. Fox on this occasion was remarkably energetic. The point with Spain, "he observed," was no longer the trivial one of the value of the ships seized, but a decision on her rights in Spanish America. Spain had always advanced her obsolete rights, when she wished to quarrel with this country :—we had now

the opportunity, and ought to embrace it, of putting an end to the assertion of those rights for ever."

The most active exertions were now made, to prepare the channel fleet for sea, under the command of Admiral Barrington, whose flag-captain was Sir John Jervis. The Duke of Clarence, being appointed to the *Valiant*, of seventy-four guns, immediately made all the interest he could, to bring his friend Nelson out of the private station in which he lay; but his efforts, though well supported by Lord Hood, were unavailing. Nelson was then residing at his father's parsonage in Norfolk, from whence, on the 24th of June, he wrote to His Royal Highness the following letter:—

"SIR,

My not being appointed to a ship is so very mortifying, that I cannot find words to express what I feel on this occasion: and when I reflect on your Royal Highness's condescension, in mentioning me to Lord Chatham, I am the more hurt and surprised. Sure I am, that I have ever been a zealous and faithful servant, and have never intentionally committed any errors; especially as, until very lately, I have been honoured by the notice of the Admiralty."

As it happened, however, the disappointment felt by this great man was of trifling duration; for the Spanish ministers, finding our court resolute, the parliament united, and the people ardent, began to lower their tone, and to manifest a conciliatory disposition. The negotiation therefore soon assumed an amicable character, and in August the dispute was adjusted by a convention, in which Spain agreed to restore the settlement at Nootka, (with reparation for the injury sustained,) and to a free

navigation and fishery in the Pacific ocean and South seas by British subjects ; with this proviso, that, for the prevention of smuggling, they should not come within ten leagues of the coasts belonging to Spain. Upon this, the fleet was disbanded ; and Lord Howe, before he struck his flag, sent the following memorandum to the commanding officer of every ship, to be read publicly :—

“ The Charlotte, November 11, 1790.

THE Commander-in-Chief desires, previous to the separation of the fleet, to make his public acknowledgments to the admirals, captains, and other officers, for the attention they have given to promote a degree of order and correctness in the conduct of the service, which he has never seen surpassed.

“ And he is, at the same time, to give testimony to the highly meritorious behaviour of the inferior orders of seamen, which does no less credit to their national character.”

The Valiant being now paid off, her commander was raised to the rank of Rear-Admiral of the blue squadron.

At this time, the Honourable William Cornwallis was commander on the India station ; from whence, in a letter, dated “ Diamond Harbour, 13th of August, 1790,” he wrote thus to his old friend Nelson :—

“ Our Royal Duke is, I hear, almost tired of the shore ; but how he will be able to employ himself at sea in time of peace, is not easy to determine. It would, however, be a pity that any of the zeal and fondness he has so evidently shewn for the service should be suffered to abate ; as there is every reason to believe, that, with his ability, he will carry its glory to a greater height than it has yet attained.”

While the Duke of Clarence lay at Spithead, waiting to go to sea with the Channel fleet, he received the

intelligence of the death of his uncle, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland. He had been long troubled with an asthmatic complaint ; but the disorder which carried him off was a cancer in the palate and throat. He also, in his youth, was intended for the naval service, and sailed as midshipman under Admiral Barrington. After passing as a lieutenant, he obtained the command of a frigate ; and in 1788, he obtained the rank of rear-admiral, but never had any opportunity of distinguishing himself at sea. He travelled much for his health, accompanied by his duchess, who was of the Luttrell family, and had been married to a military gentleman named Horton. She survived her second husband several years, but never had any issue by either. The duke was a pleasant, good-natured man ; but volatile, and fond of pleasure. For his intrigue with Lady Grosvenor he was punished in purse, by a verdict to pay thirty thousand pounds. It merits observation, that no divorce took place, owing to the request of George the Third, who was led to believe that, in the event of a separation of the lady from her dishonoured lord, she would become Duchess of Cumberland.

Shortly after this, the duke espoused a commoner of still lower rank, but of purer character ; and this produced the Royal Marriage Act, out of which have arisen so many evils.

On the breaking up of the Spanish armament, the Duke of Clarence retired again to a private life ; but, soon after, he formed a connexion, over which, were it not for the imperative law of historic verity, prudence would wish to throw a veil. As that, however, is impossible, the biographer must pursue his course steadily, but warily, as one walking on ashes under

which the fire is not extinguished. It is the peculiar fortune of princes to have their actions measured by a different standard of morality from that which is applied to the conduct of other men. Some persons, considering only the advantages which elevated rank affords for the exercise of all the virtues, will make no allowance for the numerous temptations to which that exaltation is exposed. Others again, of a worse spirit, and from want of principle, make it their study to frame apologies for the obliquities of great men, as if their errors were unavoidable, and the necessary result of their condition in life.

Without running into the extravagant notion, that vice loses its odium under any circumstances, it must be granted, that there are some cases in which the failings of princes will admit of indulgence, on account of the peculiarity of the circumstances in which they are placed.

The Royal Marriage Act, for instance, has certainly, in its effects, proved seriously injurious, not only to the happiness of the personages upon whom it was intended to operate, but also to the morals of the people, and the national welfare; for there can be little doubt of the fact, that concubinage and adultery became much more common among the higher ranks, after the passing of that statute, than had been known since the Revolution.

Precluded from following their inclination in a choice so important as that of matrimony, some members of the Royal Family formed associations, which were of so equivocal a nature as to excite some apprehensions respecting the succession. Others, that had nothing ambiguous about them, were, however, made so public,

that many persons, who were far enough from being precise, could not but feel concerned at the pernicious tendency of an example, which set even the ordinary rules of decorum at defiance, and claimed for the circle of royalty a similar privilege from the demands of virtue, as the board of green-cloth possesses against civil arrest.

At the period of which we are writing, the most popular comic actress on the London stage was Mrs. Jordan, who, in her style of performance, figure, and character, might have been called the Nell Gwyn of her day.

She was a native of Ireland; and her maiden name was Bland. At the early age of sixteen, she appeared on the stage in her native country, under the name of Francis; but when she engaged with Tate Wilkinson, the proprietor of the theatre at York, she was announced in the bills as Mrs. Jordan, "for very obvious and pressing reasons," says that manager, in his memoirs.

What those obvious and pressing reasons were, the reader will, perhaps, be at no loss to comprehend. The baptismal name of the lady was Dorothy—but even that also, though without any precedent, she chose to alter into Dora; for what reason, except from caprice, cannot be imagined.

Her first appearance on the London boards was in the comedy of the "Country Girl," at Drury Lane, October 18, 1785. This ordeal proved a complete triumph, and the play was repeated to crowded houses.

But it would be foreign from the tenour of this work to trace the theatrical career of Mrs. Jordan, or even to touch upon any of her performances and engagements,

further than as they relate to the immediate course of our historic narrative.

Previous to her arrival at York, she had accepted the protection, as it is called, of Richard Ford, a lawyer by profession, and a strolling player by necessity. This connexion produced two or three children, who were wholly supported by the talents of the mother; to whose honour, it must be recorded, that she discharged her parental duty with exemplary care and affection.

The personal attractions and vivacious manners of Mrs. Jordan made such an impression upon the naval Duke, that a transfer of the lady from her former friend was soon effected, and she took up her residence at Clarence Lodge.

In this business, the conduct of Ford could only be equalled by that of a being who puts up his wife for sale to the best bidder, with a halter about her neck. Mrs. Jordan, it is true, had no legal claim upon the father of her children; but she had one of a higher nature—and, as Ford had been wholly supported by her labours, he was bound in honour to give her the title she demanded. He refused to make her his lawful wife, and, in consequence, she acceded to the proposals of her royal admirer. It should seem, therefore, that, at this time, Mrs. Jordan was ignorant of the infamous bargain Ford had already made for the relinquishment of her person. But, whether she was or not, the whole transaction exhibits a lamentable deficiency of moral principle and honourable feeling. Ford, in addition to other considerations, obtained a share in Drury Lane Theatre; and, what was worse, on the establishment of the police magistracy, he was thought a fit person to be appointed one of the guardians of the public morals, at

the office in Shadwell, from whence he was removed to the presidency at Bow Street. On the latter promotion, he became Sir Richard Ford.

With this mirror of magistracy and knighthood, we have done; and must now attend upon the lady, by whose charms, without any merit of his own, he gained a fortune and a title.

The new situation of Mrs. Jordan became a matter of notoriety; nor could it well be otherwise, when she herself made an ostentatious display of the pride of conquest. So far was this vanity carried, that on the 22d of March, 1790 she chose for her benefit the "Humorous Lieutenant," of Fletcher, evidently because the princely connexion of Celia, the first character of the piece, and which she herself played, resembled her own. But, to make the comparison fit more exactly, and to compel the audience, as it were, to apply the fictitious representation to existing circumstances, Mrs. Jordan had the boldness to speak the following epilogue, which was written purposely for her by the facetious Henry Bunbury.

"How strange! methinks I hear a critic say,
 What *she*, the serious heroine of a play!
 The manager his want of sense evinces!
 To pitch on *hojdens* for the love of PRINCES;
 To trick out *chambermaids* in awkward pomp;
 Horrid! to make a PRINCESS of a *romp*.
 "Depend upon 't," replies indulgent John,
 "Some d—d good-natured friend has set her on:"
 "Poh!" says old Surly, "I shall now expect
 "To see Jack Pudding treated with respect,
 "Cobblers in curricles alarm the Strand,
 "Or my Lord Chancellor drive six-in-hand."

“ But, I ’ve a precedent—can quote the book—
“ Czar Peter made an empress of a *cook*.”
There—now you ’re dumb, Sir, nothing left to say ;—
Why, changing is the fashion of the day—
Far wilder changes Paris can display.
There, Monsieur Bowkit leaves, ha ! ha ! the dance,
To read Ma’amselle a lecture on *finance*.
The nation’s debts, each hairdresser can scan ’em,
And Friz in *WAYS* and *MEANS* with hard pomatum :
Beaux lay down lap-dogs, to take up the pen,
And patriot Misses urge the *rights of men*.
Squat o’er their coals, sage fishwomen debate,
Dealing at once in politics and skate,
And shrewdly mixing to each taste, the dish,
With fresh and stale—*philosophy* and *fish*.
If such odd changes you can gravely see,
Why not allow a transient change in me ?
The charms that mirth despotic makes to-night,
In grief may shine more eminently bright,
More killing still the gaudy Miss be seen,
Black as a crow, all *love and bombasin*.
Say, my fair friends, what change has more success,
In catching lovers, than a change of *dress* ?
Caps, hats, and bonnets, fashion’s pack of hounds,
Each in jts turn the trembling wretch surrounds ;
One day you wound him with a civic crown ;
Another, with a tucker knock him down ;
In cruel *pink*, to-night your game pursue—
To-morrow, pummel him in black and blue.
Now in a *turque*, now *en chemise*, assail him,
Till the poor devil flounders, and you nail him.
If I my *frock* have chang’d with some success
And gain’d admirers in this regal dress ;
If faithful Celia should your favour prove ;
If, pleas’d, you listen to her constant love ;

If, tir'd with laugh, a sigh of pity ease you,
I'll be a very weather-cock, to please you ;
The grave, the gay, alternately pursue,
Fix'd but in this—my gratitude to you."

How any thing so offensive to good manners as this, could have been heard throughout by a decent audience, is unaccountable ; yet it does not appear that the epilogue was interrupted by a single expression of disapprobation.

Before the end of the year, however, some alteration took place in the public opinion, respecting the conduct of Mrs. Jordan. The daily papers teemed with paragraphs to her disadvantage, especially during her necessary confinement ; the cause of which could not be concealed. Various stories were circulated about the transfer of the lady's person from one protector to another ; and of her little regard to feeling in the whole business. All this indicated a storm—which at length burst forth.

Richard Cœur de Lion was announced for performance at the little theatre in the Haymarket ; the character of Matilda to be played by Mrs. Jordan. When the time came, an apology was made for her non-appearance, on the ground of indisposition. Though the plea was valid, the audience chose to be dissatisfied ; and the journals echoed the language of complaint against the lady, by charging her with want of respect and gratitude to the public, from whom she had derived that brilliant support, which she now abused by the neglect of her professional duty. Some of these paragraphs went farther, and accused the object of them with having, for the sake of a princely connexion, injured the children she previously had ; and there were not wanting

insinuations to the disparagement of the royal protector of the lady, as having committed a wilful outrage upon the national character, by setting up, in his own conduct, a scandalous example for the imitation of others.

The times, it was said, required of the great, and especially of those who were most prominent by their birth and station, before the observing world, an outward attention, at least, to the conservatory laws of social order. How to remove the impression already made by these attacks, was a question of equal importance and difficulty. With respect to one of the parties, silence appeared to be the only remedy; but, as the other could not maintain the professional reputation already acquired, without some explanation and apology, the following letter was drawn up, and addressed to the several editors, to appear in the public prints :—

“SIR,

“I HAVE submitted in silence to the unprovoked and unmanly abuse, which, for some time past, has been directed against me; because it has related to subjects about which the public could not be interested: but to an attack upon my conduct in my profession, and the charge of want of gratitude and respect to the public, I think it my duty to reply.

“Nothing can be more cruel and unfounded than the insinuation, that I absented myself from the Theatre on Saturday last, from any other cause than real inability, from illness, to sustain my part in the entertainment. I have ever been ready and proud to exert myself to the utmost of my strength, to fulfil my engagements with the Theatre, and to manifest my respect for the audience; and no person can be more grateful for the indulgence and applause with which I have been constantly honoured.

“ I would not obtrude upon the public an allusion to any thing that does not relate to my profession, in which I may, without presumption, say, I am accountable to them ; but, thus called on, in the present case, there can be no impropriety in my answering those who have so ungenerously attacked me, that if they could drive me from that profession, they would take from me the *only income* I have, or mean to possess ; the whole earnings of which, upon the past, and one half, for the future, I have already settled upon my children. Unjustly and cruelly traduced as I have been upon this subject, I trust that this short declaration will not be deemed impertinent ; and, for the rest, I appeal with confidence to the justice and benevolence of the public.”

“ DOR. JORDAN.”

This appeal to the public did not give general satisfaction, and, on the 10th of December, when Mrs. Jordan appeared in the character of Roxalana, in the “ Sultan,” the applause bestowed upon her performance was mixed with some significant tokens of public displeasure. A disturbance ensued, which was not allayed till the object of it came forward, and, with considerable animation, addressed the audience in the following words :—

“ LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I should conceive myself utterly unworthy of your favour, if the slightest mark of public disapprobation did not affect me very sensibly.

“ Since I have had the honour and the happiness to strive here to please you, it has been my constant endeavour, my unremitting assiduity, to merit your approbation. I beg leave to assure you, upon my honour, that I have never absented myself one minute from the duties of my profession, but from real indisposition. Thus having invariably acted, I do consider myself under the public protection.”

This speech had the desired effect ; and the confusion ceased, amidst shouts of applause.

On this part of the history of Mrs. Jordan, her biographer offers an apology for the lady, and the new connexion into which she had entered.

“A circumstance,” says he, “had occurred, which was now generally known, I mean the declared admiration of a royal duke for this delightful actress, and a wish for her society permanently, on such terms as his peculiar situation alone permitted. He invaded no man’s absolute rights—he did not descend to corrupt or debase. Not considering himself entirely a creature of the state, he had presumed to avow an affection for a woman of the most fascinating description ; and his yet unsullied honour was the pledge, that the fruits, if any, of such an union should be considered most sacredly as his—that he took the duties of a father along with the natural relation. We were now in the ferment of the French revolution ; and it became a crime, in the eyes of no small part of the public, that Mrs. Jordan had listened to a prince. In spite of his services as a naval officer, and the frank, cordial manners, which were not more the characteristics of his profession than of his own nature, the noble seaman was neither well treated by the government, nor did his popularity at all compensate a very niggardly establishment. On a sudden, writers in the daily papers became most anxiously solicitous about Mrs. Jordan’s family, (as if it, had not at all times been the precious jewel of her soul.) ‘What, in the new connexion, became of Mrs. Jordan’s family?’ Mr. Ford was elevated by some persons into an injured and deserted man ; they neither knew him, nor his privity to the advances made by the noble suitor. They had

never seen him at the wing of the theatre, and thrown their eyes, as he must have done, to the private boxes. Mrs. Jordan was not a woman to hoodwink herself in any of her actions—she knew the sanctions of law and religion as well as any body, and their value—this implies that she did not view them with indifference. And had Mr. Ford, as she proposed to him, taken one step further, which the Duke could not take, the treaty with the latter would have ended at the moment.”

This defence is ingenious, and perhaps as good a one as the case would admit. In one expression, the writer has been guilty of injustice. The establishment of the Duke was far from being niggardly, nor could the government, with any regard to the public, have proposed a larger one to parliament. The Duke was a young man, unencumbered, and possessing a handsome income as an admiral, besides which, he received thirty thousand pounds on his advancement to the peerage. The apologist for Mrs. Jordan is perfectly correct in his observation on the treatment which she received from Ford; but whether he is equally so in saying, that if the latter had taken the step proposed, the treaty with the Duke would have ended, may well be doubted. The woman who had borne three children, and still lived with the father, could not have any nice notions of morality or religion, in entering into a treaty with another admirer, even though that admirer was a prince of the blood royal. Mrs. Jordan had no temptation here, except what was addressed to her vanity and ambition. She was already in a state of affluence, and her popularity was such that she might shortly have retired from the stage with ample means for the support of herself and children.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1791 to 1793.

SCARCELY had the differences between Great Britain and Spain been settled, when the public became alarmed by the prospect of 'a war in another and more formidable quarter. The boundless ambition of the northern Semiramis, at this time, threatened the total extinction of the Ottoman power. In the preceding year, attempts had been made by the British government, in conjunction with other states, to effect a pacification between Russia and Turkey. But all the overtures made by the mediating parties, the Empress Catherine treated with haughty contempt, and evinced, by her conquests on the Black Sea, a determined resolution to become mistress of Constantinople.

To prevent this, and to bring the autocratrix to reason, it was deemed necessary that a strong naval force should be put in motion ; and accordingly, on the 25th of March, 1791, a proclamation was issued for encouraging seamen and landsmen to enter themselves on board of his Majesty's ships of war. Instructions were also sent to those captains and lieutenants who had been employed on the impress service during the preceding armament, to open rendezvous for seamen. These measures were followed by a royal message to Parliament, stating, that as his Majesty's endeavours, in conjunction with his allies, to effect a pacification between Russia and the Porte, had been

ineffectual, he had thought it requisite, in order to add weight to his representations, to augment his naval forces.

The minister, in moving a correspondent address, argued, that we had a direct interest in this war, both in the support of our ally, and in checking the progress of the Russian arms, which had become dangerous to the political system of Europe.

Mr. Pitt observed, that the predominance of Russia would probably effect an alteration in the state of Europe, in other respects disadvantageous to this country, particularly with respect to Poland. We had, he said, a commercial interest in cultivating a trade with Poland, and in preventing Russia from obtaining such a decided command of the articles we wanted, as to give or withhold them at her pleasure. Subsequent events have fully shewn the force of these arguments; notwithstanding which, such a violent opposition was raised in both houses to the address, that the warlike preparations were suspended. Mr. Fox was the leader in this contest with government, and, for the triumph which he obtained, the Empress of Russia complimented him by sending an order to her ambassador, to procure the bust of the "man of the people," that she might place it in her cabinet, between Cicero and Demosthenes. The very next year afterwards, the imperial despot put an end to the nominal independence of Poland, which she dared not to have done, had there been a British squadron in the Baltic. So much for patriotism.

During the short time that this armament continued, though Lord Hood commanded the fleet at Spithead, the Duke of Clarence remained unemployed; perhaps because he had but recently been promoted to the rank of a

flag-officer. It is, as likely, however, that the real cause was the publication of the terms for an extraordinary loan, then negotiating at Antwerp for the three elder Princes. The conditions, as mentioned in the Dutch proposals, were as follow :—the sum in exchange-money there to be three million six hundred thousand guilders. The loan to be made for twenty-five years ; part to be payable at the end of fifteen years, by a lottery. The bonds and obligations to be for one thousand guilders each. The appendages and revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall and Bishopric of Osnaburg, were to be assigned, in trust, to certain noblemen, said to be the Dukes of Portland and Northumberland ; Earl Fitzwilliam, Lords Southampton, Rawdon, and Malmsbury, jointly with Messrs. Erskine and Pigot. Three thousand pounds sterling a year from the revenue of the duchy and bishopric were to be laid out in the three per cents., to serve as a sinking fund. The interest upon the money lent was fixed at five per cent. to commence from the 1st of February, 1791, and to be payable half-yearly.

With whom this goodly scheme for raising the ways and means to pay off royal debts originated, we are not informed, nor is it worth while to inquire. Whoever he might be, neither the crown nor the nation owed him any thanks for this display of his financial genius.

It appeared that the negociation for the loan had been set on foot some considerable time before it gained publicity. When the King became acquainted with the transaction, his indignation was strongly excited, particularly against the Duke of Clarence, for joining in a measure, to which he was not impelled by necessity. But an immediate stop was put to the business, by the official interposition of Lord Grenville, then foreign

secretary : but, unluckily, much of the money had been received ; the bonds were in circulation among the dealers in such kind of securities ; and in the issue, the holders of them lost both principal and interest.

While this unpleasant affair occasioned disquietude in the Royal Family, and threw another cloud over the three elder sons of George the Third, the three youngest were concluding their studies at the University of Gottingen, in the electoral dominions.

Of the exemplary conduct of these Princes at that celebrated seat of learning, an honourable testimonial was given by an eminent scholar, then a student there, in the following letter, dated the 12th of April, 1791 :—

“ Their Royal Highnesses the Prince Ernest, Augustus, and Adolphus, after a residence of four years, have completed their education, and left the University, to the great regret of all who knew them. They are gone to Hanover, where the former is pursuing his military studies, under the most experienced and distinguished officers, in the light dragoons, and is thought to have made so great a progress, that he is to command a squadron of horse this summer, in the Hanoverian camp. Prince Augustus, whose health has been for some time in a very precarious state, is travelling in the south of France.

“ The affability and engaging manners of these royal students have left a lasting impression upon us all. They conducted themselves the whole time they were here with the greatest decorum, treating their governors and the professors with respect, and their fellow-students with a becoming familiarity.

“ The public lectures they attended were on general history, and the relative state of Europe ; the particular

histories, and political constitutions, of Great Britain and Germany; moral and natural philosophy, natural history, &c.; besides being privately instructed in the ancient and modern languages, mathematics, tactics, riding, fencing, music, and other useful accomplishments. The celebrated Professor Heyne had the direction of their classical studies; Putter and Spittler, who attended the Hanoverian embassy at the election of the Emperor, instructed them in public law and history; and the ingenious Lichtenberg, in mathematics and natural philosophy. The Latin oration delivered by Professor Heyne in the University Church on their departure, in which he mentions their Royal Highnesses as having been patterns of industry and good behaviour, has been translated, and is read throughout Germany with avidity and pleasure."

At the end of the year, the following rather remarkable particulars of one of these Princes, the present Duke of Sussex, were given in a letter from Rome, dated the 1st of December:—

"Prince Augustus, fifth son of his Britannic Majesty, has been received by his Holiness with the most distinguished respect. Yesterday, Cardinal de Bernis informed his Royal Highness, that, by express desire of the holy Father, apartments were ordered to be in readiness for him in the Vatican; and a suit of superb rooms was accordingly prepared. But the Prince politely declined the compliment, alleging the necessity he was under, of making Rome his residence for a very short duration. He received an address on Tuesday from the Dominican friars, congratulating his Royal Highness upon his arrival in Rome. It was accompanied by an elegant Latin oration, pronounced by Father le

Pole, to which the Prince returned a polite answer in the same language. Several other religious orders have also addressed his Royal Highness, each of whom, as their several sentiments dictated, added to their complimentary congratulations, alternate allusions to the political situations of Great Britain and France at this present juncture. His Royal Highness is the first protestant prince who has been offered apartments in the apostolic palace; or who has received, upon arriving at Rome, public congratulations from the clergy."

It must be allowed, that, however extraordinary the politeness of the sovereign Pontiff was, the attention shewn to the heretical Prince by the fathers of the Inquisition was far more extraordinary and unaccountable. Two of the young Prince's uncles had repeatedly visited Rome, and been treated with singular respect by Ganganelli and his successor; but neither of the royal Dukes was favoured with addresses from the religious orders of that city. A few months afterwards, the Prince was married at, or near, Rome, to Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the Earl of Dunmore.

Among the many eccentric characters at this time in England, one of the most remarkable was that heteroclite, the Chevalier, or Madame, D'Eon, whose precise gender perplexed a whole generation, and was even made the subject of legal dispute. This nondescript knight of St. Louis, after commanding a regiment of dragoons, and acting as secretary to the French embassy, lost, under the new order of things, the pension that had been granted by the king.

As soon as the Prince of Wales was informed of the impoverished state to which the Chevalier was reduced by this act of revolutionary economy, he sent D'Eon one

hundred guineas by the hand of Lord Rawdon. The Chevalier, though enjoined to secrecy, not only wrote the following letter of acknowledgment, but had the egregious folly to publish it without permission. As a curiosity, this extraordinary composition perhaps may not be undeserving of a place in the present volume :—

“ SIR,

“ London, March 4, 1791.

“ LORD Rawdon did me the honour to call yesterday on the part of your Royal Highness, to communicate, that, having lately heard that the payment of my pension has been withheld, your Royal Highness was anxious to offer your assistance, and that you begged me to accept a present of one hundred guineas, which were sent, and to mention it by no means to any one, and that, further, if it should be in your Highness’s power to render my stay in England agreeable to me, it should certainly be done.

“ I receive, Sir, with the most respectful gratitude, the gratuity which your Royal Highness had the goodness to send, with a graciousness and sensibility that were equal. By passing through the hands of a lord and general, brave alike in peace and war, it acquired with me an accession to its value.

“ I think, if, with the ridiculous vanity of a French aristocrat, I were to refuse the present, I should ill reply to the delicacy, generosity, and nobleness of your mind, as elevated as your Royal Highness’s birth.

“ I had rather derogate from the feelings of nobility, than those of virtue and gratitude. Those sentiments are too pleasing in my breast, to permit of only secretly indulging in the payment. I dislike all subtilization in matters of acknowledgment. They evaporate in the operation. I, therefore, shall always pride myself upon your favours.

“ When a heart, so princely as yours, bestows—and a virtue, so aged as mine, receives—the tooth of the most envenomed viper will be innoxious.

“ If Horace had lived under the reign of George the Third, instead of that of Augustus, he would not have declaimed his ‘*Virtus laudatur et alget* ;’ but he would assuredly have said of the Prince of Wales,

“ ‘ In teneris qui magna sapit, si passibus æquis,
Procedas, minimo tempora quantus erit !’

“ ‘ Returning, his lyre would to you be address’d,
And to render its raptures, give joy to my breast.’

“ I am, with the most profound respect and gratitude,

“ LA CHEV. D’EON.”

Not long after this, the same equivocal personage addressed a petition to the National Assembly, setting forth, that although she had worn the dress of a woman for fifteen years, she had never forgotten that she was formerly a soldier ; that, since the Revolution, she felt her military ardour revive, and demanded, instead of her cap and petticoats, her helmet, her sabre, her war-horse, and that rank in the army to which her seniority, her services, and her wounds were entitled ; and, that she now requested permission to raise a legion of volunteers for the service of her country. Unconnected with any party, she had no desire of brandishing her sword in processions in the streets of Paris, and wished for nothing but actual service—war nobly made, and courageously supported. “ In my eager impatience,” adds the chevalier, “ I have sold every thing but my uniform, and the sword I wore in the last war, which I wish again to wear in the present. Of my library, nothing remains but shelves, and the manuscripts of Marshal Vauban, which I have preserved as an offering

to the National Assembly, for the glory of my country, and the instruction of the brave generals employed in her defence. I have been the sport of nature—of fortune—of war and peace—of men and women—of the malice and intrigues of courts. I have passed successively from the state of a girl to that of a boy—from the state of a man to that of a woman. Soon, I hope, with arms in my hands, I shall fly, on the wings of liberty and victory, to fight and die for the nation, the law, and the king.”

Though this gasconade of the would-be Joan d’Arc was received with universal plaudits, the epicene warrior was suffered to remain in poverty, till death came, and demonstrated that D’Eon was a man.

On the 29th of September this year, the marriage of the Duke of York to the Princess Royal of Prussia took place at Berlin ; and on Saturday the 19th of November, the illustrious pair reached town, when the Duke of Clarence carried the agreeable intelligence of their arrival, to the King and Queen at Buckingham House.

On Wednesday, the 23d, the ceremony of re-marriage, according to the rites of the Church of England, and in pursuance of the act of parliament, was performed at the Queen’s Palace by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. The certificate of the marriage was signed by their Majesties, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Clarence, and the Lord Chancellor.

About this time, a Society was formed, under the patronage of the Duke of Clarence, having for its object the improvement of naval architecture.

In their account of the institution, the managers said, “The Society purpose to encourage every useful invention and discovery, as far as shall be in their power, both by honorary and pecuniary rewards. They have

in view particularly to improve the theories of floating bodies, and the resistance of fluids ; to procure draughts and models of different vessels, together with calculations of their capacity, centre of gravity, tonnage, &c. ; to make observations and experiments themselves ; and to point out such observations and experiments as appear best calculated to further their designs, and most deserving those premiums which the Society can bestow.

“ But, though the improvement of naval architecture in all its branches, be certainly the principal object of this institution, yet, the Society do not by any means intend to confine themselves merely to the form and structure of vessels. Every subordinate and collateral pursuit will claim a share of the attention of the Society, in proportion to its merits ; and whatever may have any tendency to render navigation more safe, salutary, and even pleasant, will not be neglected.

“ It is with confidence that they repeat their solicitations for assistance, to enable them to extend their views—to make experiments on a large scale—to assist young persons in the attainment of this most useful art, and even to institute an academy for the regular study, not only of the art itself, but of those sciences which ought to form the basis of it. •

“ But the Society do not merely call upon the public for pecuniary assistance ; in particular, they solicit the officers of the royal navy and merchants’ services to examine carefully the hints, proposals, and plans which may at any time be laid before this Society ; and to suggest any improvements that may occur, however minute they may appear to them ; they being confessedly the best judges of the advantages to be derived from the facility of manœuvring ships, of the comparative excel-

lence between one vessel and another in sailing, and all other desirable properties."

This institution originated with Mr. John Sewell, a bookseller in Cornhill, who was led by mere accident to take such notice of the actual state of the naval architecture of this country, as naturally occurred to a man of plain understanding, zealous for the national honour and interest, and willing to bestow a portion of that time for the public good, which men of a less ardent disposition would have devoted to their own private advantage.

Mr. Sewell's attention to the subject of naval architecture was excited by having learned the opinion of some private shipwrights, who, in a debate on the failure of one of our naval engagements, declared that such would ever be the case, while the construction of vessels of war was left to precedent, and not studied as a science. It was further observed, that there had not been one improvement in our navy but what was derived from the French, who had naval schools for the study of that valuable branch of knowledge.

Among the first supporters of the plan were, the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Howe, Earl Spencer, Lord Rawdon, and Sir John Borlase Warren; but, after going on some time, it was found inefficient for the purpose, unless made a national concern. In the naval administration of Lord Spencer, therefore, this was accomplished by the establishment of a Board of Naval Architecture, under the direction of the Admiralty.

In the parliamentary session of 1792, the important subject of the African slave-trade occupied much of the time of both houses. On the 2d of April, Mr. Wilberforce brought forward certain resolutions for the

immediate abolition of the trade; which were passed, with the substitution of the word "gradual," instead of immediate, upon the motion of Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville.

On the 3d of May, the resolutions of the lower house were brought before the upper by the Duke of Leeds; when Lord Grenville announced his intention to move, that their lordships should agree with the Commons in their resolutions. Upon this, there arose a desultory conversation, as to the proper mode of proceeding to be adopted.

The Duke of Clarence declared, he had come down to the house without a single idea that the slave business would be brought forward on that day; therefore he had the more need of the indulgence of their lordships, as the want of being prepared was to be added to the deficiencies he naturally must experience, from not being in the habit of public speaking; yet he could not reconcile it to himself to be silent on this momentous occasion. By having been stationed for some time in the West Indies, he had been necessarily an eye-witness of the treatment of the negro slaves, and therefore could speak from local knowledge; and, from all he had seen, his Royal Highness declared, that, in his conscience, he verily believed the greatest hardship of their slavery was in the *word*. As, however, the business was not now directly before the house, his Royal Highness observed, he should avoid entering into a particular discussion of the question at large, but which he should be very ready to do with any noble lord, when that was the case.

Considering the African trade in every point of view, as of the highest magnitude to the welfare and prosperity of

this kingdom, the duke said, its abolition should ever meet with his most serious and unqualified opposition; and, that it was of this magnitude, his Royal Highness said, he could assure their lordships, for, to his knowledge, there were at that moment foreign agents waiting the decision of Parliament, and ready to engage all the vessels that would be thrown out of employ, should the house agree to those resolutions, which would, in effect, tend to its abolition; but which, the love he bore to his country made him sincerely wish he should never live to see.

On the 8th, Lord Stormont moved, "that the house do resolve itself into a committee, to examine into the trade between this country and Africa, and between Africa and our West India Islands; and to inquire into the cultivation of sugar in our islands."

Lord Grenville, for the purpose of coming to a speedy decision, proposed an amendment, for an open committee above stairs. To this, the Duke of Clarence offered several strong objections, and contended for a full inquiry, and the hearing of counsel, at their lordships' bar.

The Chancellor was of the same opinion, and the original motion was carried. Thus stood that great question for the present year.

On the 23d of the same month, the nation lost one of its brightest ornaments, in the death of the veteran Rodney, at the age of seventy-four; having been in the navy sixty-two years, and upwards of half a century in commission. Upon a motion in the house of Lords, to bestow some memorial in honour of this gallant commander, the Duke of Clarence rose, and paid the following feeling tribute of respect to his departed friend:—

“ I cannot give a silent vote on the present occasion. The services of the late Lord Rodney are so great, that it did infinite honour to his Majesty’s ministers to pay every respect to his memory. Such services merited the highest rewards from his country, and I am happy to bear this public testimony to their value and importance. For myself, I have particular reason to endeavour to do justice to the singular merits of my deceased friend, who, unhappily for this country, is no more ; but I hope the house will indulge me a few moments, while I briefly recall to their recollection the noble services his lordship had rendered, which I am certain they never can forget.

“ I must first remind their lordships, that Lord Rodney had taken Martinique, Grenada, &c. &c. from the French in the war before the last. In the last war, in going out to Gibraltar, he had taken a Spanish admiral, with a valuable convoy. Without this most seasonable and fortunate capture, Gibraltar was so short of provisions, that the most serious consequences were to be apprehended. He had abundantly supplied the garrison, and happily relieved it. The house will recollect that Lord Rodney had taken the island of St. Eustatius, and a Dutch convoy ; but the most glorious period of his life was the 12th of April, 1782, which will ever be held as a most sacred epoch in this country. The enemies of England were vain enough to think they could crush her for ever ; but the event of that day clearly proved, that a British fleet of nearly equal force, when opposed to a French fleet, will be sure to beat them. The victory of the 12th of April was the more honourable to Lord Rodney, as it was obtained over De Grasse, one of the best and bravest admirals that

France ever produced. Had it been in the power of valour to have saved a brave man from disgrace and misfortune, it never would have been the lot of De Grasse to have been disgraced and banished from the French court—a conduct, however,” his Royal Highness emphatically observed, “that had too often prevailed in courts !

“It was that victory which decided the fate of the war, and taught our particular enemy, France, that, however for a moment we might be depressed, we arose, after a seeming defeat, with renovated strength and courage.

“I trust,” concluded the royal speaker, “this house will pardon my expatiating on the virtues and great professional merits of my departed friend, for which myself and every officer of the British navy entertain the highest respect and veneration.”

Lord Rodney having left a son, brought up under himself, but who was unaccountably neglected by Government, the Duke of Clarence strove hard to get him promoted. All his endeavours, however, proved ineffectual, till Nelson obtained the command in the Mediterranean, when the Duke recommended Mr. Rodney to a protection, which was now become far more powerful than his own.

The reply was, “I agree with your Royal Highness most entirely, that the son of a Rodney ought to be the protégé of every person in the kingdom, and particularly of the sea officers. Had I known that there had been this claimant, some of my own lieutenants must have given way to such a name, and he should have been placed in the *Victory*. The whole fleet is full, and I have twenty on my list ; but whatever numbers I have, the name of Rodney must cut many of them out.”

In the course of the same session, a bill was brought into Parliament by ministers, for increasing and preserving the timber in the New Forest, and for the sale of rents and enfranchisements of copyhold tenements in the same. The noble mover, Lord Grenville, observed, that the great decay of timber for the royal navy made such a bill necessary, and that its principle was recommended by the Commissioners of the Land Revenue of the Crown.

The proposition, however, was strongly contested, particularly by the Lord Chancellor Thurlow, who opposed it with many objections—among which, he considered the alienating of the landed property from the crown, was not the least. He held, that the crown should always possess a landed interest in the country; and that, if the estates attached to it could be so improved as to render it independent of the necessity of applying to Parliament for support, it would be more honourable and beneficial to both; and, that such was the constitutional principle of the country, he thought was sufficiently evident in the determination of making forfeited lands fall to the crown; and therefore he could not but consider every suggestion to take away part of that property, as infringing upon, and depriving the crown of, its just right.

In a future stage of the bill, the Chancellor repeated his objections to it; and he further added, that the royal assent ought to have been given to it in due form.

The Duke of Montrose declared that the previous assent of the King could not be given in a committee.

This called up the Duke of Clarence, who declared himself an advocate for the interests of the crown, as stated by the Lord Chancellor; and, in answer to what

had fallen from the Duke of Montrose, his Royal Highness said, that he was lately on a committee where his Majesty's assent was formally given, as being indispensably necessary. He further observed, that he should ever support the prerogative of the crown, and trusted that his declaration would be credited.

Lord Grenville, in consequence of this opposition, and the petition presented against the measure by several persons interested in the New Forest, postponed the bill till the next session.

The distinguished part thus taken by his Royal Highness in the senate, drew from his friend Nelson an epistle, not merely complimentary, but the warm effusion of generous sentiment and congenial feeling. To this letter which was dated the 12th of September, 1792, the Duke returned the following answer :—

“ MY DEAR NELSON, “ Clarence Lodge, Sept. 21.

“ I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your friendly letter of the 12th instant, which came safely. I am so fully persuaded of your real regard for me, my good friend, that no fresh mark can be wanting to convince me. Still, however, at the present moment, when the public have two opinions, the one good, the other disadvantageous, of my parliamentary conduct, I feel highly obliged to you, as a person qualified to judge, for delivering your sentiments. I think it is the duty of every subject to prevent, if possible, that confusion which might throw our kingdom into the wretched, deplorable state of France. Assure our common friends in the West Indies, that I will neither neglect nor desert them. My best wishes and compliments attend Mrs. Nelson, and ever believe me yours, sincerely.”

“ WILLIAM.”

The following testimony of Nelson's attachment to his sovereign is without date, but the letter seems

to have been sent to the Duke of Clarence on the 3d of November:—

“ SIR,

“ YOUR Royal Highness will not, I trust, deem it improper, although I have no doubt it will be thought unnecessary, at this time, to renew my expressions of invariable attachment, not only to your Royal Highness, but to my KING; for, I think, that very soon every individual will be called forth to shew himself, if I may judge from this county, where societies are formed, and forming, on principles certainly inimical to our present Constitution, both in Church and State. Sorry am I to believe that many give a countenance to these societies, who ought to conduct themselves otherwise.

“ In what way it might be in the power of such an humble individual as myself to best serve my KING, has been matter of serious consideration, and no mode appeared to me so proper as asking for a ship; accordingly, on Saturday last, Lord Chatham received my letter, desiring the command of one. Still, as I have hitherto been disappointed in all my applications to his lordship, I can hardly expect any answer to my letter, which has always been the way I have been treated. But neither at sea, nor on shore, can my attachment to my KING be shaken. It will never end but with my life.”

On the 6th of December, his Royal Highness returned the following answer:—

“ DEAR NELSON,

“ THOUGH at present the armament is confined to small vessels, I much doubt whether any fleet will be equipped, and still less do I see any chance for any rupture between this country and France. At the same time, this pernicious and fallacious system of equality, and universal liberty, must be checked, or else we shall here have the most dreadful consequences. I perfectly agree with you, that it is the duty of every individual to

use his utmost efforts to counteract these incendiaries; and I hope we shall in Parliament take vigorous and effectual means to restore tranquillity at home. Should matters between the two countries grow serious, you must be employed. Never be alarmed. I will always stand your friend. I wish you would write me word how you and Lord Hood are at present. My best wishes and compliments attend Mrs. Nelson, and ever believe me yours sincerely.”

“WILLIAM.”

It soon appeared, however, that Nelson had taken a more accurate observation of the political horizon than his royal friend. The letter of the Duke had scarcely been written and despatched, when the militia was embodied, and the Parliament reassembled by proclamation. The King in his speech said—

“I have carefully observed a strict neutrality in the present war on the continent, and have uniformly abstained from any interference with respect to the internal affairs of France; but it is impossible for me to see, without the most serious uneasiness, the strong and increasing indications which have appeared there, of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries—to disregard the rights of neutral nations—and to pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement, as well as to adopt towards my allies, the States-General, who have observed the same neutrality with myself, measures which are neither conformable to the law of nations, nor to the positive stipulations of existing treaties. Under all these circumstances, I have felt it my indispensable duty to have recourse to those means of prevention, and internal defence, with which I am entrusted by law; and I have also thought it right to take steps for making some augmentation of my naval and military force; being

persuaded that these exertions are necessary in the present state of affairs, and are best calculated, both to maintain internal tranquillity, and to render a firm and temperate conduct effectual for preserving the blessings of peace."

The address being moved and seconded, the Duke of Norfolk expressed a doubt whether the militia had been legally embodied. His grace was followed by the Marquess of Lansdown, in a speech full of invective against all the measures of Government. He deprecated going to war with France upon the question of opening the Scheldt, conceiving that we had nothing to do with the business; that, if we were bound by treaty, the treaty was a bad one, and the sooner it was given up the better.

Lord Grenville combated the arguments of the Marquess, and took a review of the internal and external state of the country, to shew the necessity of vigorous measures. A seditious spirit had appeared among a number of designing men, who were supported and encouraged by too many of their superiors. His lordship said, that he held in his hand no less than ten treasonable papers, which had been transmitted to the National Convention, from different clubs in this kingdom, during the preceding month. Some of these papers stated, that there were thousands in England ready to stand up for the rights of man, and to form a National Convention here, upon the ruins of the aristocracy.

These addresses were not only received by the French revolutionary government, but answered in a complimentary strain, and with the promise of co-operation. Hence it became evident, that the principle of the French republic was to spread anarchy all over Europe,

for the purpose of establishing an empire more extensive, and of a worse character, than that which constituted the ambition of Louis the Fourteenth. Towards the attainment of this object, they had already gained the whole of Savoy, penetrated into the Austrian Netherlands, and had now demanded the opening of the Scheldt, which, if carried, would annex Holland to the French territories.

The Duke of Clarence perfectly coincided with the noble secretary of state in all the sentiments he had just expressed. His Royal Highness said, that, with regard to himself, he had made an offer of his services in his professional line, in which he thought he could be most beneficial to his country. To him it also appeared, that it was of little signification whether the opening of the Scheldt was of any consequence to us—it was sufficient for our interference, if the Dutch held it to be of importance to them; for, if the French should overturn that government, and afterwards have a design upon our own, we might, in that case, have to meet the Dutch fleet as enemies, instead of acting with them as friends.

Several peers, who had hitherto been leaders in the rank of opposition, now gave their support to ministers; particularly the Earls Fitzwilliam and Carlisle, Lords Stormont and Rawdon. Even Earl Stanhope declared himself in favour of the British constitution; because it possessed, as he said, the power of correcting itself.

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1793 TO 1796.

THE appeal to arms being now made, the Duke of Clarence lost no time in procuring, as he had promised, a ship for his friend Nelson, who, on the 30th of January, 1793, was appointed to the *Agamemnon*, of sixty-four guns, destined for the Mediterranean. On the 25th of the following month, the Duke of York, with three battalions of the Guards, embarked at Greenwich, being accompanied thither by the King and Prince of Wales, mounted as military officers; while the Duke of Clarence, in a coach-and-six, attended the Queen and Princesses.

In the same month, there was an extended naval promotion, when the Royal Duke was advanced from the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, to that of the red.—This step, however, was a mere matter of course, and therefore could not be justly considered as a personal distinction, or as a compensation for the neglect with which his Royal Highness's repeated offers of service had been treated. He had now arrived at that period of life when he was best fitted for active employment; besides which, the times seemed to call, as it were, imperatively upon all persons of his high birth, to stand forward in the defence of their hereditary rights.

Why, therefore, when the Duke of York was appointed to command the British forces on the continent, his brother, who had been brought up in the kindred service,

and passed through all its grades with reputation, should be wholly passed over at such a crisis, was a question commonly asked, but never answered. That the omission did not lie with ministers, was generally admitted; and it is a certain fact, that the Royal Duke did not want interest with the Admiralty, when exerted on behalf of others; though, in regard to himself, there was a remora which impeded his progress, and kept him stationary, till his professional services on the ocean were no longer wanted.

But if the history of the Duke of Clarence, at this important period, had no brilliant circumstances to be recorded in the memoir of his life, there was nothing in it to require the skilful management of an apologist. He pursued a noiseless course, while his friends were engaged in the battle-field: but he was not an inattentive observer of what was passing in the world around him; nor did he, when forced by necessity to keep aloof from action, indulge in frivolous amusements or vicious pleasures. During the sitting of Parliament, he was constant in his attendance, and occasionally took a part in the debate, but only upon great public questions, and without regulating his opinion or vote by the spirit of party. He supported ministers in the conduct of the eventful war, which was certainly at the commencement of it a very popular one, however unfavourable the general sentiment respecting it proved afterwards. The mind of the Royal Duke was of too strong a texture to be shifted from its purpose by casualties or clamour. A convincing proof of his independent spirit, and contempt of popular fame, appeared in his uniform and active opposition to the abolition of the slave-trade. Whether the views taken by him of that great subject

were right or wrong, one thing is certain, that they were the result of experience and local observation.

His Royal Highness was, in every sense of the word, a disinterested advocate of the Western colonists; for though he bore in remembrance their affectionate attention to him in his different visits to the islands, he could have no inducement to defend them, much less at the expense of humanity. It cannot be denied, however, that the Duke took so very warm and prominent a part in the cause of the planters, as gave great offence to many persons of worth and distinction. This effervescence of zeal carried him sometimes over the line of prudence, and brought him into conflict with men animated by a similar spirit on the opposite side. An instance of this occurred on the 11th of April this year. The Earl of Abingdon, a nobleman of the most eccentric character, moved that the consideration of the petitions respecting the slave-trade should be deferred for five months. His lordship assigned as the reason for his motion, that the abolitionists were acting under a mask, to introduce the new philosophy of France; and he accused Dr. Priestley, in particular, of preaching and publishing a sermon on the slave-trade, in which he introduced principles inimical to a monarchical government. This desultory speech was replied to in as warm a strain by Earl Stanhope, the stanch advocate of the French revolution, and of course an equally zealous one for the abolition of African slavery.

The Duke of Clarence next rose, and argued, at some length, on the injustice and impolicy of putting an end to the trade in the manner in which it was attempted. His Royal Highness said, that Mr. James Ramsay, who began the business of this sort, governed his own plan-

tation, in the island of Nevis, in the most tyrannical manner. None but fanatics or hypocrites, the royal speaker said, were for the abolition. The Duke then read a letter that had been sent to Condorcet from this country, which evidently proved that the ideas of French freedom were connected with the abolition of the slave-trade by the present advocates of that measure. His Royal Highness concluded with some very severe animadversions on Mr. Wilberforce, and others, who had lately received from the National Convention the flattering distinction of republican denizenship—an honour which would never be envied by any loyal or virtuous man in England.

These reflections, thrown out upon Mr. Wilberforce, and those philanthropists who acted with him, were not to be passed over in silence.

Lord Grenville, therefore, as the mover of the bill in the House of Lords, felt it his duty to censure, but in a serious and respectful manner, the language that had, in the ardour of debate, escaped his Royal Highness, to the injury of one of the most upright and loyal characters in the kingdom.

Dr. Horsley, Bishop of St. David's, and a most determined opponent of the trade, repelled the charge of being a "fanatic," and the friend of Condorcet. "As to fanaticism," said the bishop, "I know not at whom that shot was directed, nor do I care. It concerns not me; conscious, as I am, that, with the profoundest reverence for religion, the constant tenour of my life bears not the slightest stamp of fanaticism."

With respect to the charge of Jacobinism, thrown upon the abolitionists, the bishop said, that it was a wretched calumny, and that the question had no more to

do with French philosophy, than with the religion of the Parsees. His lordship acknowledged, that he had formerly corresponded with Condorcet, on mathematical subjects, but said, that, since the Revolution, he had neither written, nor received a letter from him.

In the next session, a bill was passed through the lower house, abolishing that part of the trade which went to the supply of the territories of foreign nations; but when brought up to the Lords, it was opposed by the Duke of Clarence, and thrown out by a great majority; besides which, a motion of Bishop Horsley, for receiving evidence, was also negatived.

Although his Royal Highness could not obtain permission to share in the peril and glory of war, he felt anxious for those of his friends who were in active employment; and he kept up an extensive correspondence with distinguished officers, of the military as well as the naval service. On parting with Nelson, the Royal Duke exacted a promise, to hear from him as often as his engagements would allow. This promise was punctually fulfilled, and the letters that passed between these illustrious friends will be found to throw light upon the history of that eventful period.

Of the evacuation of Toulon at the end of this year, after having for a few months been occupied by the English and Spanish forces, Nelson sent to the Duke a long narrative, written at Leghorn, the 27th of December, 1793. In this affecting account, he says, "On the 19th, in the morning, such a scene was displayed as would make the hardest heart feel: the mob had risen, was plundering, and committing every excess. Many—numbers cannot be estimated—were drowned, trying to get off; boats upset; and many put a period to their

existence. One family of a wife and five children are just arrived—the husband shot himself. In this scene of horror, Lord Hood was obliged to order the French fleet of twenty sail of the line, and as many other ships of war, together with the arsenal and powder-magazines, to be set on fire. Report says, one half of that miserable place is in ashes. The quitting Toulon by us, I am satisfied, is a national benefit—both in money, (for our contracts will be found to have been very extravagant, people seeming to act as if fortunes were to be made instantly,) and in saving some of our gallant English blood, which, when the muster comes to be taken, will appear to have flowed plentifully. The destruction of the fleet and arsenal, and indeed of the harbour of Toulon, for a number of years, is a great benefit to England.”

When the island of Corsica was reduced, in which service Nelson distinguished himself by land as well as sea, the French prisoners were conveyed in British transports to Toulon. Nelson, in his letter to the Duke, gives an account of the treatment which our seamen experienced there, in return for their humanity. Instead of dismissing the vessels with speed, it seemed as if, by their delay, the republicans sought an excuse for keeping them.

“No reason,” says Nelson, “was ever given for detaining them; but their sails were taken from them, and, during their stay, not a man was suffered to go on shore. They were, however, treated tolerably, until the arrival of Jean Bon St. André, who, to the officers’ modest and proper requests, gave insolent answers, the true characteristic of little minds:—a generous enemy would have disdained the withholding medical assistance from

the unfortunate, whom chance had put in their power. At eight o'clock in the evening of the 20th of November, 1794, their sails were sent alongside, with a message, that, if they were not out of the harbour by twelve o'clock next day, they would keep them. The English, poor fellows, wanted no spur to clear them of such wretches; one transport, that got aground, they left behind, and she is not yet arrived."

This Jean Bon St. André was one of the most furious of the Jacobinical faction, and had been on board the French admiral's ship, *La Montagne*, as a national commissioner, in the late engagement with Lord Howe, on the 1st of June; which circumstance, in all probability, contributed not a little to irritate his mind against every thing English.

As the Duke of Clarence was deprived of the honour of participating in the laurels won by his late commander, Earl Howe, and many of his former shipmates, he next sought permission to carry a musket, or trail a pike, against the enemy, on the continent—but with no better success.

The perilous situation in which the Duke of York stood, after the battle of Fleurus, alarmed Government to such a degree, that the Earl of Moira was suddenly detached from another service, to his relief. Upon this occasion, the Duke of Clarence again entreated leave to join the army as a volunteer, and again he had the mortification to be denied, though his request had no other object than that of rendering assistance to his brother. Lord Moira, however, effected his purpose, and, after defeating the French in two actions, joined the Duke of York with ten thousand men, between Brussels and Antwerp. Notwithstanding this reinforcement, his

Royal Highness was compelled to retreat into Holland, from whence he returned to England at the beginning of the following year.

The war now assumed a more inauspicious aspect. Prussia, after taking a subsidy from this country, applied the money, not against France, but Poland, and then made peace with the republic. Spain also consented to a termination of hostilities, and by that means enabled the French to overrun Italy. Lastly, the Seven United Provinces entered into a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with the French republic, and abolished the stadtholderate.

Thus, with the exception of Austria, the allies of Britain were converted into enemies; and, as two of these powers were maritime, the combination was truly formidable, and demanded correspondent exertions, of the most vigorous nature, on the part of our Government. The Mediterranean now became the principal theatre of military and naval operations: the former being left to the Imperialists; and the latter, with better fortune, to the English. In this quarter, the name of Nelson had already gained renown, and every day added to its lustre. The correspondence between him and the Duke continued with increasing interest on both sides; and Nelson, writing to his wife at this time, says, "I have just received a very affectionate letter from his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, and he appears to remember our long acquaintance with much satisfaction. One of his expressions is, 'I never part with a letter of yours—they are to me highly valuable.' He finds me unalterable; which I fancy he has not always done, in those he has honoured with a preference."

On the 15th of January, 1795, Nelson was in the

harbour of St. Fiorenzo, in Corsica, from whence he wrote, as follows, to the Duke of Clarence:—

“ Our last cruise, from December 21st, 1794, to January the 10th, when we arrived in this port, was such a series of storms and heavy seas, as I never before experienced; the fleet was twelve days under storm-staysails. Our ships, although short of complement, are remarkably healthy, as are the troops in this island. There is already a difference to be perceived in the cultivation of the land, since last year. Many hundred acres of pasture are now covered with wheat; and as the Corsicans will find a ready sale for their corn, wine, and oil, (the two last articles the French suppressed as much as possible,) every year will doubtless increase the growth. The fleet goes to sea on the 22d or 23d, thirteen sail of the line. The French have fifteen in the outer road of Toulon, and fifty sail of large transports ready at Marseilles; therefore it is certain they have some expedition just ready to take place, and I have no doubt but Porto Especia is their object. We soon expect to be joined by some Neapolitan ships and frigates. I have no idea we shall get much good from them; they are not seamen, and cannot keep the sea beyond a passage. I beg your Royal Highness to believe that I am your most faithful servant.”

What Nelson anticipated, soon occurred. The French fleet at Toulon, taking advantage of the absence of the blockading squadron, slipped out of the harbour, and steered for Corsica, with the intent of landing troops to recapture the island. Admiral Hotham, on receiving intelligence that the enemy was at sea, immediately left the road of Leghorn; and on the 13th of March, a running action was fought, which terminated the day following by the flight of the French. leaving in

the possession of the victors two ships—the *Ca Ira*, of eighty, and the *Censeur*, of seventy-four guns. In this affair, Nelson displayed his wonted heroism; but he could not prevail upon the commander-in-chief to continue in pursuit of the fugitives. “I think we have done pretty well,” was the answer he received from the admiral; to which he quickly replied, “I wish, sir, I could think so too.”

In writing an account of this partial engagement to his royal friend, Nelson says:—

“I hope and believe, if we only get three sail from England, that we shall prevent this fleet of the enemy from doing further service in the Mediterranean, notwithstanding the red shot and combustibles—of which they have had a fair trial, and found them useless. They believed that we should give them no quarter; and it was with some difficulty we found the combustibles, which are fixed in a skeleton, like a carcass; they turn into liquid, and water will not extinguish it. They say the Convention sent them from Paris, but that they did not use any of them, only hot shot.”

That Nelson had reason to be dissatisfied, appeared shortly afterwards; for, having a flying squadron under his command, he fell in with a French fleet of seventeen sail of ships of the line, before whom he was of course compelled to retreat, and take shelter in the bay of St. Fiorenzo. On this, Admiral Hotham again put to sea; and the result was another incomplete action, in which a French seventy-four was destroyed, and the rest escaped. Nelson was then detached from the fleet with a squadron, to act with an Austrian force encamped near Genoa, against the French, in the same neighbourhood. Of this service, and the conduct of the Genoese government, the

commodore in the month of November sent the following curious particulars to the Duke of Clarence :—

“ Almost every day produces such changes in the prospect of our affairs, that, in relating events, I hardly know where to begin. The two armies are both so strongly posted, that neither is willing to give the attack ; each waits to see which can endure the cold longest. The French general has laid an embargo on all the vessels on the coast, near a hundred sail ; and it would not surprise me if he were meditating a retreat, in case his plans do not succeed—which I hope they will not, as the prevention of them, in a great measure, depends on our naval force under my orders. This has called me here, where a circumstance has arisen, that has given us the alarm sooner than was intended. An Austrian commissary was travelling from Genoa towards Vado, with ten thousand pounds sterling ; and it was known he was to sleep at a place called Viltri, about nine miles from Genoa. This temptation was too great for the French captain of the *Brune*, in concert with the French minister, to keep his word of honour ; and the boats of that frigate, with some privateers, went out of the port, landed, and brought back the money. The next day, the 11th of November, recruiting was publicly carried on in the town of Genoa, and numbers enlisted ; and on the 13th, at night, as many men as could be collected were to sail, under convoy of the *Brune*, and to land, and take a strong post of the Genoese, between Genoa and Savona. A hundred men were to have been sent from the French army at Borghetto, and an insurrection of the Genoese peasantry was to have been encouraged ; which, I believe, would have succeeded for several miles up the country. General de Vins must have sent four

or five thousand men, probably from his army, which would have given the enemy a fair prospect of success in their attack. The scheme was bold, but I do not think it would have succeeded in all points. However, my arrival here on the 12th, in the evening, caused a total change: the frigate, knowing her deserts, and what had been done here before with the transports and privateers, hauled from the outer to the inner mole, and is got inside the merchant-ships, with her powder out; for no ships can go into the inner mole with powder on board; and, as I have long expected an embarkation from the French army from the westward, to harass General de Vins there, I was fully on my guard. Whilst I remain here, no harm can happen, unless, what private information says is likely to take place, that four sail of the line, and some frigates, are to come here, and take the *Agamemnon* and her squadron. What steps the Austrian generals and ministers will adopt, to get redress for this, I fear, allowed breach of neutrality on the part of the Genoese government, I cannot yet tell. It is a very extraordinary circumstance, but a fact, that, since my arrival, respect to the neutral port has not been demanded of me; if it had, my answer was ready—‘That it was useless and impossible for me to give it.’ As the breach of the neutrality has not been noticed, I fancy they are aware of my answer, and therefore declined asking the question.”

These extracts are given here, to shew the interest which the Duke of Clarence took in the war, though kept by imperative necessity from bearing any public part in the conflict. One thing, however, is certain, though not generally known, that his opinion had a considerable influence in our naval councils at that time. To this

cause, therefore, much of the glory which then followed the track of the British fleets is to be attributed. Nelson's correspondence, being of a private nature, imparted many things, and conveyed many observations, which, important as they were, could not, consistently with professional prudence, be transmitted officially to Government. This restriction did not apply to the familiarity of friendship, and therefore much knowledge was obtained through this medium by ministers, of which they would otherwise have been ignorant. From the information thus furnished, the state of affairs in the Mediterranean assumed a new aspect. Sir John Jervis succeeded Admiral Hotham, and the consequences of that change were not long afterwards displayed off Cape St. Vincent and the Nile.

We must now quit the seat of war, for scenes of another description.

On the 8th of April, 1795, the Prince of Wales was married to his cousin Caroline of Brunswick. The ceremony was performed, with great solemnity, in the Chapel-Royal, St. James's Palace; and, in the procession, the bride was led by the Duke of Clarence.

It has been said that this ill-fated alliance, alike injurious to the parties themselves, and to the nation, was brought to a conclusion, after some suspense, by the high-coloured picture of the Princess, which the Royal Duke, when he came from Germany, gave to his brother. How far this may be true, it is not easy to say; but another account, with more probability, ascribes the flattering encomium to Prince Adolphus, who, during his residence abroad, often visited Brunswick; and when asked his opinion of Caroline, said, "She was, in every respect, like his sister Mary." Now, it so happened,

that, of al. the female branches of the family, the Princess Mary, now Duchess of Gloucester, was the one that enjoyed most of the esteem of the Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness, therefore, on hearing what his brother said, remarked, that, if his cousin resembled his sister, she was all he could wish in a wife. Such stories are of trifling moment, or, if worth relating, it is only to shew how little dependence is to be put upon external appearances, in forming a judgment of the human character.

One thing is clear, that the union was not that of principle or affection, on either side. Interest and ambition tied the knot ; and, therefore, it was not to be wondered, that minds so ill assorted should recede from each other with equal repulsion.

The first main object of the Prince, in yielding to the proposal of marriage, was the increase of his income, and the payment of his debts. But here lay the difficulty : for the nation was labouring under heavy burdens brought on by the war ; the people were in a state of discontent ; the Prince had offended his old political friends, by voting and speaking in Parliament against their avowed sentiments ; and, worse than all the rest, the manner in which his debts had been contracted was generally condemned.

A proper settlement, however, was indispensable, and this necessarily involved the consideration of the present circumstances of the Prince. On the 27th of April, Mr. Pitt brought down to the House of Commons a message from his Majesty, recommending an establishment for the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the adoption of some plan for the liquidation of the existing debts of his Royal Highness.

This message was taken into consideration in a committee of the whole house, on the 14th of May, when the minister proposed fixing the establishment of the Prince at £125,000, exclusive of the revenues of the Duchy of Cornwall. There were, Mr. Pitt said, other articles to come before the committee of supply, such as £25,000, for completing Carlton House; about £28,000, to defray the expenses of the marriage; and £50,000, as a jointure for her Royal Highness.

Mr. Pitt then touched upon the embarrassments of the Prince. The claims upon him from his creditors amounted to £620,000, exclusive of certain sums for which he was security for two of his illustrious brothers, but which, by these royal personages, were now put in a train of liquidation, and would not increase the public burdens.

On the nature of these debts, the minister dwelt with much severity, and was of opinion that they should be submitted to the investigation of a secret committee, or, if that was not sufficient, to a parliamentary commission.

To answer the desired end, something should be taken from the Prince's income, that an example of excess and prodigality might not go down to posterity without a mark of disapprobation. The plan, therefore, he had to propose, was, that of vesting in the hands of the commission, the revenue of £13,000, arising from the Duchy of Cornwall, to be converted into a sinking fund, at compound interest; together with £25,000, from the yearly income, to be placed in the four per cents.; by which the whole of the debts would be discharged in twenty-five years. Proper measures also should be taken to secure these payments, in case of the demise of

the crown, or of the death of the Prince himself. Mr. Pitt concluded with moving, "That it is the opinion of this committee, that a yearly income, not exceeding £65,000, be granted to his Majesty, to enable him to make such additions to the establishment of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as may become the dignity assumed by him on his marriage."

The resolution was carried, but not without considerable opposition. Mr., since Earl Grey, was particularly strong in his animadversions on the conduct of the Prince. The addition now proposed, he said, was out of all proportion to former allowances; and, therefore, he should move, as an amendment, that the addition be £40,000, instead of £65,000. To a suitable allowance to the Princess, he had no objection.

Mr. Fox was for the larger sum; but he disapproved of the plan for liquidating the debts. He would propose that £65,000 per annum be set apart as a sinking fund for the clearing of encumbrances, and the sale of the Duchy of Cornwall, which, it was supposed, would realize six hundred thousand pounds. Of this amount, he would appropriate a moiety to the further extinction of debts, and allow the other half to the crown, or the Prince of Wales, as an equivalent for the loss of the income of the Duchy. By this plan, probably, Mr. Fox said, in the course of four or five years, his Royal Highness would be perfectly cleared; but then his remaining income of £60,000 a year, would hardly be sufficient to support his rank.

On a division, the amendment of Mr. Grey was negatived, and a bill ordered to be brought in, founded on the original resolution.

In the interval, the Prince, acting by his legal adviser,

Mr. Anstruther, sent a message to both houses, professing his entire acquiescence in whatever measures Parliament might choose to recommend for his establishments—the payment of his present, and the prevention of future debts. This had the effect of facilitating the business through the House of Commons; but the bill of the minister was immediately followed by another, on the motion of Sir William Pulteney, for preventing future Princes of Wales from contracting debts.

On the 24th of June, the first bill came under debate, in the House of Lords, when the Duke of Clarence entered into an elaborate and impassioned defence of his brother. His Royal Highness began with making some observations on the title of the bill; and then said, he should confine his remarks to that part which related to the provision for the payment of the Prince's creditors.

The Duke acknowledged there were some parts of the bill which met with his approbation. It naturally and properly became an object to grant a suitable establishment to the Prince, on account of his marriage. In granting this establishment, however, it might have been supposed that the Prince had now come to an age, at which he was fully capable of acting for himself, and would, of his own accord, have been disposed to take measures to free himself from any encumbrances which he might have contracted. But, instead of this—instead of allowing him the merit of taking measures of his own motion, for the payment of his creditors—the authors of the bill had taken the popularity of such a step out of his hands. The other provision, which made the different officers of the household responsible for the expenses incurred under their respective departments,

he highly approved, as tending to the ease and dignity of the royal personage.

“A Prince of Wales,” the Duke said, “by a particular law, became of age at eighteen, while every other subject did not attain his majority till he was twenty-one. A young man at that time of life, when the passions were at their height, might be led into expenses beyond his income, even to a degree bordering on extravagance, and yet the circumstance ought not to be considered as calling for any serious reflection.”

His Royal Highness next remarked, that “those who had been most concerned in forwarding the business, instead of acting as they ought, had so managed as to take away all credit from the Prince, in order to appropriate it to themselves. The bill, to prevent future Princes of Wales from contracting debts, instead of going hand-in-hand with the present one, had been brought forward as a marked personality to his Royal Highness.”

The Duke said, “he would not betray any thing that passed in private conversation, yet he could not avoid making some remarks on the manner in which the business had been introduced. It was a matter of public notoriety, that, before the marriage took place, it was stipulated that the Prince should, in the event of the union, be disencumbered of his debts. What could be understood by this stipulation, but that measures should be taken for the immediate exoneration of those debts—not, as by the provisions of the present bill, that they should be left hanging over for the space of nine years and a half, and perhaps a longer period. The authors of the bill had stated, that the honour and stability of the throne rested upon the support of the independence

and dignity of every branch of the Royal Family, and particularly of the Prince of Wales. Was the method they had taken calculated to support that dignity, and that independence?

The Prince had, indeed, expressed his acquiescence in whatever measures the wisdom of Parliament might think proper to recommend; but in what situation was he placed? The bill, in one point of view, was a public bill—as every bill was which related to any member of the Royal Family; but it was nevertheless more strictly a private bill, as nothing could be done without the consent of the Prince himself. Advantage then had been taken of the difficulties in which he was involved, in order to procure from him this consent. He was forced to express his acquiescence, in order that something might be done. He was in the situation of a man, who, if he cannot get a particular haunch of venison, will take any other haunch, rather than go without.

The Duke next alluded to the great number of pamphlets which had been published, in order to influence the minds of the good and generous people of England against his royal brother. He knew persons, in another place, he said, who possessed great powers of eloquence, and an abundant choice of animated expressions. These persons had exerted their powers, in order to support the measure of granting a subsidy of £200,000 a year to the King of Sardinia; a sum of £1,200,000 to the King of Prussia; and lately, a loan of £4,600,000 to the Emperor of Austria. But, though on these occasions they displayed all their stores of animated language, yet, when they brought forward the situation of the Prince of Wales, they prefaced what they had to propose with the expressions—“an unpleasant task—an arduous under-

taking—the distresses of the people in consequence of the war—the regret at laying additional burdens on the public ;”—yet he must remark, that if they had adopted, with regard to his brother, a language something more favourable, as to the impression it was calculated to give of his conduct, to the country, they would not have had a vote less to the present bill.

His Royal Highness next touched on the situation of that lovely and amiable woman, the Princess of Wales, torn from her family ; for, though her mother was the King's sister, she might still be said to be torn from her family, by being removed from all her early connexions : what must be her feelings from such circumstances, attendant on her reception in a country, where she had a right to expect every thing befitting her high rank, and the exalted station to which she was called ? As the friend of the Prince, however, the Duke said, he would not oppose the passing of the present bill, for he was convinced that the sooner it passed, the sooner would its absurdity and malignity appear.

If, as had been stated, the arrears of the Duchy of Cornwall were due to the Prince during the period of his minority, he hoped that question would be quickly brought forward, and he trusted that the noble lord [Loughborough], before whom it would come to be argued in his judicial capacity, and whose justice could not be impeached, would throw no impediment in the way of its speedy decision.

An allusion having been made to the foreign loan that had been negotiated on behalf of the three Princes, his Royal Highness took occasion to say, that the affair was completely settled.

Lord Grenville replied, and observed, that he held no

official situation under the crown, when the debts of the Prince of Wales were before Parliament on a former occasion, but that the opinion he then formed, he still maintained on the subject. He added, that it did not become him to take upon himself the defence of members of the other House of Parliament, to whom allusions had been made; from some of whom he differed, and some of them he knew were pretty well able to defend themselves. They had granted large supplies for the prosecution of a war, which they considered just and necessary. They had, however, at least many of them, expressed much unwillingness to support the present measure. He knew no reason for saying that they were not actuated by a due sense of their public duty, and therefore he, for one, was not prepared to censure them for their conduct. The question before their lordships was not one of attachment to any particular person, but it was a public question, on which every member of Parliament ought to act according to his own ideas of public duty. There were, no doubt, some persons who wished to vilify his Royal Highness, and every branch of his Family. Such persons were enemies to monarchy; but sure he was, that it was the object of ministers to keep the monarchy respectable and dignified, and he had no doubt but that such was the wish of the great mass of the people.

The Duke of Clarence again rose, and observed, that the noble secretary of state had said, that he was not a minister when the debts of the Prince of Wales were before Parliament on a former occasion. But his Royal Highness begged leave to recall to his recollection, that he was minister in 1792. He now wished to know, whether there was not a statement of facts on the

encumbrances of the Prince of Wales at that time, presented to a certain quarter. He knew there was, and therefore the noble secretary could not be ignorant of the affairs of the Prince at that period.

Lord Grenville, in reply, said, there could be no debate where there was no equality, and, therefore, he must decline any further contest on the subject. He had stated what part he had taken as a member of Parliament, and what had officially occurred upon the matter before the house. He apprehended that it did not come within the line of his duty to state any thing concerning what happened in another quarter.

On the 23d of April, 1795, the trial of Warren Hastings, after lasting above seven years, was brought to a conclusion, in the acquittal of the defendant by the Lords, and a vote of thanks to the managers of the prosecution, by the House of Commons. To the honour of the peers of the blood-royal, not one of them took any part in this business, either by vote or otherwise.

The autumnal session of Parliament opened on the 29th of October, under very inauspicious circumstances. The rapid progress of the French armies on every part of the continent, produced general gloom in England; and this spirit of discontent being aggravated by the scarcity of provisions, as is usual in such cases, broke out in acts of violence against Government. The King was attacked, both in going to, and returning from, the House of Lords; and two direct attempts were made upon his life—first, by a shot fired from a house in Margaret Street, Westminster; and next, in passing through the Park, where a desperate mob, taking advantage of the absence of the soldiers, surrounded the carriage, and were in the act of breaking open the doors, when the Guards

came up to his Majesty's relief. Though large rewards were offered for the apprehension of any of the offenders, none appeared, to claim them by information—which shewed clearly that there was not only an organized combination formed, to bring about a revolution; but that it was strongly cemented, and well supported.

Such, indeed, was the impression made upon the public mind by these atrocities, that, when ministers introduced two bills—one for the safety and preservation of his Majesty's person and government against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts," and the other, "for the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies"—the same were carried through both houses by immense majorities.

Notwithstanding these vigorous measures, fresh attempts against the King and Queen were made on the night of the 1st of February, 1796, on their return from the theatre of Drury Lane. Her Majesty was cut in the face by some sharp missile, thrown into the carriage in Chandos Street; and opposite Carlton House, a large stone fell into the lap of the lady in waiting.

Such, at this period, was the perilous state of Royalty, that, in the language of one of our elder poets, the poorest peasant might have said to his neighbour—

“ Didst thou but feel

The weighty sorrows which sit on a crown,
Though thou shouldst find one in the streets, Castruccio,
Thou wouldst not think it worth the taking up.”

CHAPTER V.

A. D. 1796 TO 1798.

ON the 7th of January, 1796, the Princess of Wales was delivered of a daughter, at Carlton House—where, on the 11th of the following month, the Royal Infant was baptized, and received the names of Charlotte Augusta; their Majesties standing sponsors in person, and the Duchess of Brunswick, by her representative, the Princess Royal.

This star of an illustrious line arose on the verge of a stormy horizon, and amidst the wrecks of regality, scattered in different directions. On the day preceding the birth of the Princess, Charles Philip, Count D'Artois, with a few faithful adherents, landed at Leith, and took up his abode in Holyrood House, the ancient palace of the Scottish kings; but where no prince had resided since Charles Edward, who might be said to have come, like the shadow of royalty, to extinguish for ever the title of an illustrious but unfortunate race. Between the history of the house of Stuart, and that of the house of Bourbon, the resemblance is striking in many respects; but in none more than in their fall. James the Second, when driven from the throne of a long line of ancestors, found an asylum at St. Germain, under the protection of Louis the Fourteenth, then the most powerful monarch in Europe. But, behold the reverse of fortune! Louis the Sixteenth, like Charles Stuart, lost his head on the

scaffold; and his brother, after many wanderings, obtained shelter in the once splendid, and now almost dilapidated, palace of Edinburgh—no longer the seat of kings, but the refuge of exiles and fugitives.

Here Charles Philip was soon joined by his son, the Duke de Angoulême; and here the former remained some years in the enjoyment of tranquil repose, till the sudden change of affairs recalled him to France with his family, only to be made again the sport of fortune, and, after tasting the intoxicating cup of grandeur, to be thrown back to his former retreat in the capital of Scotland.

Such are the mutations of human life, to which another instance was added, at this period, in the forced resignation of the crown of Poland by Stanislaus the Second, and the erasure of that country as a nation from the map of Europe.

But Catherine of Russia did not long triumph over the victim whom she had dragged from a throne, first to Grodno, and next to Petersburg; a conqueror, of resistless power, on the 5th of November, 1796, arrested her when alone within the recess of her palace, unobserved by any attendant, and, after lingering a few hours, but deprived of all sensibility, this extraordinary woman expired.

But we must now bring under review some incidents of domestic history. In the month of March, this year, died two British admirals; of whom a few anecdotes will be found deserving of insertion in this memoir, as illustrative of professional character and national history.

The first of these veterans was the Hon. John Forbes, who died at the advanced age of eighty-two. When the unfortunate Byng was sentenced to die for an error of judgment, Mr. Forbes, who was then a member of the

Admiralty board, refused signing the warrant of execution, for which he assigned his reasons in a letter to the King, but without effect. Admiral Forbes then indignantly gave up his seat, and soon after the whole board was changed.

During the administration of Earl Shelburne, afterwards Marquis of Lansdowne, Admiral Forbes was asked to resign the office of General of Marines, which he had held many years, and which Government wanted for a friend of their own. The admiral was told that he should be no loser by his compliance, as they proposed giving him a pension of three thousand a year, and a peerage, to descend to his daughter. Admiral Forbes sent for answer, that the Generalship of Marines was a military employment, given to him by his Majesty, as a reward for his services—that he thanked God he had never been a burden to his country, which he had served during a long life to the best of his ability—and that he could not condescend to accept a pension, or to bargain for a peerage. He concluded by laying his generalship, together with his rank in the navy, at the feet of the King, entreating him to take both away, if they could forward his service; at the same time assuring his Majesty, he would never prove himself unworthy of the former honours he had received, by ending the remnant of a long life on a pension, or accepting of a peerage obtained by political arrangement. The King applauded the spirit of the admiral, ever after continued him in his military honours, and to the day of his death shewed him strong marks of his regard.

Sir Hugh Palliser, governor of Greenwich Hospital, died, at the age of seventy-five, in rather a remarkable manner. At the beginning of the war of 1756, he received

a wound in the leg, in an action with a French frigate of superior force. About five months before his dissolution, the admiral fell down in his garden; and the wound broke out afresh to such a degree, that all surgical skill proved ineffectual.

In the year 1754, while he commanded the Seahorse, then stationed in Leith roads, a sailor entered on board that ship. This man, being an apprentice, was demanded by his master, but Captain Palliser refused to give him up. On application to Mr. Philip, the judge of the court of admiralty in Scotland, a warrant was sent to bring the man on shore. The captain of the Seahorse, however, ordered the officer to return, saying, he had nothing to do with the laws of Scotland. The judge, then, caused Captain Palliser to be arrested and committed to prison. Next day he was brought into court; and on refusing to submit to its jurisdiction, he was remanded to his former place of confinement. After some consultation, the captain thought proper to yield, and was liberated. When the case was reported to Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, he said, "the judge was a bold man; but he has done what was right."

Captain Palliser thought otherwise; and, knowing how fond the gentry in that part of the kingdom were of claret, which, as the duty was low, they obtained very cheaply, he gave such information to the ministry, that a very considerable addition was made upon all French wines imported into Scotland.

The history of the difference between Keppel and Palliser is too well known to need any observation. Both commanders possessed the reputation of being brave men; and it may be particularly said of Sir Hugh, that he was as humane as he was brave.

Lord Howe succeeded Admiral Forbes as general of marines, and Capt. Locker to the governorship of Greenwich Hospital.

To these desultory sketches we must here add one of a very different description. Among the novelties which distinguished this year, the alleged discovery of a body of manuscripts, bearing the name of Shakspeare, was one that naturally attracted general attention. These presumed reliques of genius were exceedingly multifarious, consisting of family papers, letters, poems, and one entire drama on the story of Vortigern.

Samuel Ireland, the possessor of this invaluable treasure, was not backward in announcing his good fortune to the public; and there were not wanting men of literary celebrity, to attest their belief in the authenticity of the manuscripts. Sheridan, and the other proprietors of Drury Lane Theatre, agreed to bring out Vortigern in a style suited to the presumed origin of the tragedy. Mrs. Jordan had a part assigned her in the representation; to which, in the performance, she did ample justice. Previous to this, the Duke of Clarence having expressed a desire to inspect the manuscripts, Samuel Ireland, accompanied by his son, the real fabricator of the whole mass of forgery, waited upon his Royal Highness, at his apartments in St. James's Palace. The younger Ireland, in his account of what passed on that occasion, says, "The Duke having carefully inspected all the documents produced, the usual questions were put to me respecting the original discovery of the manuscripts, in which Mrs. Jordan also joined; when my former statements were, as usual, strictly adhered to. His Royal Highness, I perfectly well remember, made numerous objections, and particularly to the redundancy of

letters, apparent throughout the papers. To every question, however, the same answers were made as usual; and thus the doubts which arose in his Royal Highness's mind were obviated by Mr. Ireland.

“As the agreement for the Vortigern was then on the point of being signed, much conversation took place upon that subject; in the course of which, his Royal Highness was so kind as to give Mr. Samuel Ireland many cautious hints. Respecting the language of the piece, as well as the plot and characters, numerous inquiries were made by Mrs. Jordan, as well as the Duke of Clarence; and I think it but justice, in this place, to offer my sincere thanks to that lady for her kind endeavours, on a subsequent occasion, when she had to sustain one of the principal characters in the drama.”

On the second of April, and not, as it should have been, the first, this boasted production of Shakspeare was represented to an overflowing house. But, though every artifice had been put in motion to stamp credit upon the counterfeit, the good sense of the people could not be imposed upon. As soon as Kemble, in giving a ridiculous prosopopeia of Death, uttered this unlucky line—

“And when this solemn mockery is o’er,”

the audience took it for a signal, and simultaneously condemned the miserable fraud to oblivion.

So presumptuous was Ireland in passing off his base gold for sterling bullion, that he rejected the prologue furnished by Pye, the laureat, on account of its not being sufficiently confident in maintaining the authenticity of the play. Upon this, Sir James Bland Burges was applied to; and the baronet, without any qualm of

conscience, wrote a prologue as strong as could be wished by the most interested patrons of the forgery.

We must here leave this disgraceful scene for one of real importance. On the 28th of June, the French troops entered the neutral city of Leghorn, under the pretext of dislodging the English ; all the property belonging to whom, these marauders confiscated, without any regard to the rights of the Grand Duke. The factory, however, being apprised of the intended visit, had taken the precaution to remove with their effects to Porto Ferrajo in the isle of Elba. Commodore Nelson with his squadron now blockaded the harbour of Leghorn, from whence, on the 20th of July, he wrote as follows to his friend the Duke of Clarence :

“ I was this morning honoured with your Royal Highness’s letter of May 30th, and it gives me real satisfaction to be assured of the continuance of your good opinion. Indeed, I can say with truth, that no one whom you may have been pleased to honour with your notice, has a more sincere attachment for you than myself. It has pleased God, this war, not only to give me frequent opportunities of shewing myself an officer worthy of trust, but also to prosper all my undertakings in the highest degree. I have had the extreme good fortune, not only to be noticed in my immediate line of duty, but also to obtain the repeated approbation of his Majesty’s ministers at Turin, Genoa, and Naples, as well as of the viceroy of Corsica, for my conduct in the various opinions I have been called upon to give ; and, my judgment being formed from common sense, I have never yet been mistaken.”

Nelson then gives a sketch of affairs in Italy, particularly at Leghorn, where, says he, “ the garrison is reinforced to 5000 men, and provisions are getting into the

citadel. The French general has told the inhabitants, that if they are not quiet, he would blow all the works up round the town, and which in fact would blow half the town up: the mines are laid; large vessels are also fitting with forty-two pounders and furnaces, to annoy me—but I am prepared, as much as possible, against whatever may happen.”

About a month afterwards, Nelson wrote again to his Royal Friend as follows :

“ In the present situation of affairs, I will not let slip an opportunity of writing to your Royal Highness. The check which the Austrians have met with in Italy, must give another unfavourable turn to the affairs of our allies. The French have made the most of it; and they were, no doubt, masters of the field of battle. I wish to say more than I dare trust to the post, of the object of an expedition that was to have taken place the moment we became victorious, in which I was to have been a powerful actor.

“ Our affairs in Corsica are gloomy; there is a very strong republican party in that island, and they are well supported from France: the first favourable moment they will certainly act against us. The French are endeavouring to get over from the continent twenty and thirty men at a time, and they will accomplish it in spite of all we can do. Gentili, a Corsican, who commanded in Bastia when we took it, is arrived at Leghorn, to command in Corsica. Twenty field-pieces are sent from here, and are landed near Ajaccio.

“ As to our fleet—under such a commander-in-chief as Sir John Jervis, nobody has any fears. We are now twenty-two sail of the line; the combined fleet will not be more than thirty-five sail of the line, supposing the

Dons detach to the West Indies. I will venture my life, Sir John Jervis defeats them; I do not mean by a regular battle, but by the skill of our admiral, and the activity and spirit of our officers and seamen.

“ This country is the most favourable possible, for skill with an inferior fleet ; for the winds are so variable, that some one time in twenty-four hours, you must be able to attack a part of a large fleet, and the other will be becalmed or have a contrary wind ; therefore, I hope Government will not be alarmed for our safety, I mean more than is proper. I take for granted, they will send us reinforcements as soon as possible ; but there is nothing we are not able to accomplish, under Sir John Jervis. I am stationed, as you know, to blockade Leghorn, and now Corsica may prevent my going to the fleet ; which I feel very much—but all cannot be as we wish. I assure your Royal Highness, that no small part of my pleasure, in the acknowledgment of my services, has arisen from the conviction, that I am one of those, of whom, from your early youth, you have been pleased to have a good opinion ; and I have to beg that your Royal Highness will ever believe me to be your most faithful—HORATIO NELSON.”

All Italy was now succumbing to the yoke, and every state striving to obtain as favourable conditions as possible from Buonaparte. The Pope humbled himself before the victor, and purchased a little temporary indulgence, by ceding to the French all the ports belonging to the Ecclesiastical States.

Upon this, Nelson, whose character had much in it of the spirit of chivalry, said, that as soon as his affairs were settled with the Grand Duke of Tuscany, he would pay a visit to the Pope. “ I do not think,” he observed,

“that his holiness will oppose the thunder of the Vatican against my thunder; and, if I succeed, I am determined to row up the Tiber in my barge, and to enter Rome.”

Here a story of rather an extraordinary kind deserves to be related.

On Nelson's return to Naples, after the victory of the Nile, an Irish mendicant, of the order of St. Francis, presented to him a poem, of no great merit indeed, but remarkable for predicting the taking of Rome by the English admiral's fleet. The prophecy struck Nelson; who smiled, and represented to the author the impossibility of getting ships up the Tiber, to act against Rome. The friar replied, “I nevertheless foresee that it will certainly come to pass.” Nelson gave the prophet some dollars, and, for a time, both the mendicant and his prediction were forgotten.

But if the English ships did not sail up the Tiber, they took possession of Civita Vecchia, at the mouth of it; and when the French general claimed the Roman territory by right of conquest, the brave Commodore Trowbridge, who commanded that expedition, replied, “And its mine by reconquest.” Captain, afterwards Admiral Louis, was the first British seaman that rowed up the Tiber in his barge, hoisted English colours on the Capitol, and governed Rome. The prophetic friar, on the recommendation of Nelson, obtained ecclesiastical preferment at Naples.

When the change of affairs on the continent rendered Corsica no longer useful, or even tenable, by the English forces, the charge of removing to the isle of Elba was entrusted to Commodore Nelson, who, while thus engaged, on the 25th of October wrote the following letter to his Royal Friend:—

“ I was honoured with your Royal Highness’s letter of September 2d, a few days past, in the midst of a very active scene, the evacuation of Bastia ; which, being our first post, was entrusted to my direction : and I am happy to say, that not only Bastia, but every other place in the island, is completely evacuated. The Corsicans sent to Leghorn for the French, as was natural for them, in order to make their peace ; and the enemy was in one end of Bastia before we had quitted the other. The exertions of the navy, on this occasion, as on all others which I have seen, have been great, and beyond the expectations of those who never will believe what we are capable of performing. Our troops are ordered to Porto Ferrajo, which can be defended against any number of the enemy for a length of time ; and the port, although small, will hold, with management, our whole fleet and transports. As soon as all our transports are arrived at Elba, we are to go out to look for Man, who is ordered to come up : we shall then be twenty-two sail, of such ships as England hardly ever produced ; and commanded by an admiral, who will not fail to look the enemy in the face, be their force what it may. I suppose it will not be more than thirty-four sail of the line. If I live, your Royal Highness shall have no reason to regret your friendship for me ; and I will support Sir John Jervis to the utmost of my power. I hope soon to hear that your flag is flying ; which, I am sure, will be most honourable for yourself, and, I trust, most advantageous for our King and country.”

Two abortive attempts were made, within a short space of each other, at this period, to bring about a peace ; but the refusal of the French directory to accede to the reasonable terms of reciprocal compensations, put an

end to the negotiations almost as soon as they began. The British government insisted upon the surrender of the Netherlands, as a *sine qua non* in any treaty that might be concluded; and this was resisted, on the ground of conquest. When the proceedings came under discussion in Parliament, Mr. Fox inferred, that this demand, on the part of our ministers, was a proof of their insincerity. Mr. Dundas, on the other side, said, that to appreciate in some measure the value of Belgium, so far back as the reign of Henry the Fourth of France, it was held out in a negotiation then pending, "That one acre of land in that country was, in point of political importance, equal in value to any province in France."

Which opinion was right, subsequent events, and the present state of that country, will easily determine.

The combination, now formed of the navies of France, Spain, and Holland, seemed to threaten the annihilation of the power of Great Britain on the ocean; and, unquestionably, it was the confidence inspired by this united strength, that gave a peremptory and haughty tone to the republican rulers, in the mission of Lord Malmsbury.

The French government proposed to their allies, or rather, their dependants, that the Spanish' fleet should, at the beginning of 1797, leave Cadiz for Brest, and there be joined by the Dutch naval forces; which junction, with that of the French republic, would have formed an armada of seventy ships of the line, sufficient, it was thought, to reduce Ireland, and wrest from Britain the dominion of the seas.

The preparations of the enemy plainly indicated their object; and ministers did not delay, in providing means for its defeat. The fleet of Sir John Jervis was stationed

off Cadiz, to act against the Spaniards; while Admiral Duncan, on the coast of Holland, kept a good look-out upon the operations of the Dutch in the Texel.

On the 13th of February, Admiral Jervis received intelligence that the Spanish fleet, under Don Joseph Cordova, was at sea; and at the break of day, the enemy, consisting of twenty-seven ships of the line, came in sight off Cape St. Vincent.

Though the British fleet amounted to no more than fifteen sail of the line, its brave commander-in-chief scorned to retreat, and immediately threw out a signal to form in two lines, for action. By carrying a press of sail, the squadron was so fortunate as to prevent the two divisions of the enemy's fleet from connecting, and to cut off all that portion which had fallen to leeward. Such a moment was not to be lost, and the gallant admiral, judging that the honour of his Majesty's arms, and the circumstances of the war in these seas, required a considerable degree of enterprise, felt himself justifiable in departing from the regular system. Accordingly, passing through the enemy's fleet in a line, he formed with the utmost celerity—attacked—and thereby separated one-third of the Spaniards from the main body. After a partial cannonade, which prevented their rejunction till the evening, four ships of the largest size were captured, and the battle ceased about five o'clock.

Commodore Nelson, who had joined the fleet from the Mediterranean only the day before, contributed essentially to the glory of this splendid victory; the particulars of which, in a very interesting narrative, he transmitted home to his illustrious friend, the Duke of Clarence.

There were but few English ships actually engaged; but what rendered the action most remarkable, was the

disparity of the loss of men, on both sides, the British admiral's ship having only one man killed; and Nelson, though he boarded and carried two of the largest ships of the enemy, lost only one officer, twenty seamen, and three marines. The Spaniards had above twelve hundred killed and wounded.

The government and nation did not fail to reward the brave defenders of their country. The commander-in-chief was created Earl St. Vincent; and Vice-Admiral Waldegrave was raised to the Irish peerage, by the title of Lord Radstock; each of the other admirals, Thompson and Parker, received the dignity of Baronet; and Nelson was distinguished by the order of the Bath; Captain Calder was knighted, and gold medals were given to all the commanders in the fleet.

Votes of thanks to the admirals, officers, and seamen of the fleet, were passed in both houses of Parliament, of course; when, among the speeches delivered on that occasion, the Duke of Clarence pronounced the following eulogium upon the noble victor, and his valiant compatriots:

“I have examined,” said his Royal Highness, “into the naval history of this country, and find, that, at the battle of La Hogue, the French fleet was inferior to ours in number. The circumstances of the present action, the disparity of force—fifteen sail against twenty-seven—speak for themselves. Admiral Boscawen, in 1757, destroyed the French fleet—in 1780, Admiral Rodney, (with whom I myself served in a very inferior situation,) destroyed the Spanish fleet. But, in this engagement, the superiority of force was so greatly in favour of the enemy, that it is distinguished as the most brilliant victory in the naval history of this country, and the

most decided proof of the courage and vigour of our seamen. On every occasion previous to this event, the conduct of Sir John Jervis has been conspicuous. In 1790, at the time of the Spanish armament, Lord Howe testified his high sense of the talents and activity of Sir John Jervis, and of the state and discipline of the fleet, when he received it from his hands. I myself was on board the fleet at that time, and the discipline kept up was most exemplary, and tended greatly to the advantage of the service. Indeed, from the whole of his conduct, I do not hesitate to pronounce, without meaning to give offence to any other, that Sir John Jervis is the first naval officer in his Majesty's service."

The joy which this great achievement produced was eclipsed almost as soon as excited. Although the British flag had waved triumphantly on the main, its glory appeared on the point of sinking for ever; not by the superiority of foreign enemies, but by the machinations of domestic traitors. The emissaries of sedition having found their way into the fleet in different capacities, had no difficulty in spreading discontent among men, who were easily persuaded that their services were overlooked by the Government, and that their grievances could only be redressed by themselves.

Several anonymous letters were addressed to Earl Howe at the beginning of the year, praying that his lordship would use his influence to procure an increase of pay to the seamen, and an improvement in the quality and quantity of their provisions. Unfortunately, the admiral being then laid up by the gout at Bath, no regard was paid to these applications, which the board, to whom they were remitted, considered as proceeding from some insignificant and dissatisfied individuals.



THE R^T HON^{BLE} ALEXANDER HOOD, VISCOUNT BRIDPORT, 1

Bridport

The neglect was sorely felt ; and when the fleet returned to Spithead, on the 31st of March, a correspondence began from ship to ship, which produced a general resolution not to proceed again to sea till their grievances were redressed. This determination was carried into effect on the 14th of April, when Lord Bridport was dispossessed of his cabin, in which the delegates from all the other ships assembled, and gave their orders with equal firmness and moderation. A petition was next drawn up, and presented to the admiral, demanding an increase of wages, and some regulations with respect to the ratio of provisions. They further expressed a hope, that an answer might be given to their petition before they were ordered to sea. This, however, was qualified with the exception, " unless the enemy were known to be at sea."

Meanwhile, a committee of the Admiralty, with Earl Spencer, as first lord, arrived at Portsmouth, and went on board the *Queen Charlotte*, where they held a conference with the delegates, who declared that no arrangement would be considered as final, without the sanction of Parliament, and guaranteed by a royal proclamation of general pardon.

Three days afterwards, the admiral went on board his ship, hoisted his flag, and, on the assurance that all grievances would be redressed, and a general pardon granted, the men returned to their duty.

It was now thought that every cause of complaint had been removed, and that order would be restored. Unfortunately, this was not the case, for when Lord Bridport, on the 7th of May, made signal to weigh anchor, the crew of every ship at St. Helen's refused to obey. A meeting of delegates prepared to assemble on board the *London*, carrying the flag of Admiral

Colpoys, who refused to suffer any of them to come alongside; and gave orders to the marines to that purpose. The marines obeyed, and a skirmish ensued, in which five seamen were killed. The whole ship's company of the London now turned their guns towards the quarter-deck, and threatened to blow all into the water, unless the officers surrendered. To this menace, the admiral and his captain submitted, and were confined in separate cabins.

Such was the perturbed state of things, when Lord Howe, who was always regarded as the seaman's friend, arrived with an act of Parliament, which had been passed to the full extent of all that was demanded.

Having visited the ships at St. Helen's, and those at Spithead, where he was welcomed as the minister of peace, his lordship landed, and was carried by the delegates, upon their shoulders, to the governor's house, amidst the applauses of the populace. The flag of insurrection being now struck, harmony was so completely restored, that what had passed appeared as the remembrance of a terrific dream, and the fleet put again to sea, to encounter the national enemy.

Scarcely, however, had this alarming explosion terminated, when another broke out, with symptoms of greater danger. The fleet, under Admiral Buckner, at the Nore, being dissatisfied with the concessions of Government, set up new claims, of a different description from those of their brethren at Portsmouth; and so preposterous, that a compliance with them would have been the ruin of the navy. The red flag of defiance was, in consequence of the refusal, hoisted on Admiral Buckner's ship, of which, Richard Parker, a petty officer, took the command, with the title of President of the Board of Delegates.

Soon after this, part of Admiral Duncan's fleet came from Yarmouth Roads, and joined the mutineers, who had now twenty-four sail of the line, and thirteen frigates. The insurrection having risen to an alarming height, Earl Spencer, accompanied by some other members of the board of Admiralty, proceeded to Sheerness, but refused to hold a conference with the refractory delegates, who demanded unconditional submission, as a preliminary condition to any intercourse.


Upon this, their lordships returned to town, after signifying to the insurgents that no further concessions than those which the legislature had already made, would be granted, but that, on returning to their duty, an amnesty should take place. The mutineers now began to see their perilous situation, and consulted how to provide for their own security. Some of the most daring, proposed carrying the ships to the enemy; but the very suggestion of such an act of treachery was rejected with abhorrence by the majority. It was then thought, that, by blocking up the river, and stopping trade, they should oblige Government to come to terms. This project was adopted, and all craft, except colliers and neutrals, were kept from passing in or out of the Thames.

A proclamation was now issued, offering a pardon to those mutineers who should return to their duty, by application to Admiral Buckner. This was followed by an act of Parliament for the more effectually restraining all intercourse between the shore and the ships in a state of mutiny. Among the measures adopted in this dangerous crisis, that of taking up the buoys from the mouth of the Thames, and all along the coast, had the best effect in perplexing the operations of the mutineers,

who were thus prevented from sailing up the river, or even from putting to sea, without imminent danger of running aground. Great preparations were likewise made for the defence of Sheerness from any attack that might be meditated against the place, by a set of men now become desperate.

Instead of making any such attempt, the delegates thought proper to try the effect of mediation. Accordingly, the Earl of Northesk, captain of the Monmouth, was ordered by Admiral Parker, as the president was commonly called, to carry a letter to the King, stating the complaints of the seamen, and praying his Majesty's gracious interposition in their favour. The letter was taken into consideration; but no other answer was returned than a peremptory refusal of all that was demanded. This threw the whole mutinous fleet into confusion; and the defection of some of the ships, which ran into Sheerness under the protection of the fortress, dissolved the union altogether. Parker was taken, tried, and executed on board the Sandwich. Others suffered a similar fate; but many, after receiving sentence of death, were respited and pardoned.

Parker was a native of Exeter, where he inherited considerable freehold property, which, some years afterwards, came to his child, on the death of the grandfather. What rendered the conduct of Parker rather extraordinary, was the fact, that, till this unfortunate period of his life, he had been distinguished for his zealous loyalty, and opposition to democratic principles. His passions, however, were strong, and his disposition turbulent, which, with the pride of possessing talents superior to those of his associates, proved his ruin



It is necessary here to take some notice of what occurred in Parliament at this perilous crisis.

On the 3d of May, the Duke of Bedford brought the subject of the mutiny at Portsmouth before the House of Lords, by putting a question to ministers, whether any communication was intended to be made from his Majesty, on the events that had occurred in the marine department?

Earl Spencer replied in the negative. Upon this, Lord Howe entered into an explicit narrative of what had taken place in the fleet, as far as he was concerned; adding emphatically, that the engagements of the Admiralty with the seamen ought to be ratified by the legislature; and that, if they were not, it would be felt that there was no reliance to be placed on the promises of Government; the consequences of which were more easy to be anticipated than described.

The Duke of Clarence found it expedient to drop a few words only, on so delicate a subject; but his Royal Highness thought that extreme caution was requisite, on the part of Government, and particularly of the legislature, in a business of such vast importance to the nation.

It should seem, from the following letter to Nelson, then in the Mediterranean, that the Duke and his friend entertained different opinions on the conduct of the seamen; the one thinking that they had grievances to complain of, while his Royal Highness thought they had none, or, at least, not any that could palliate their mutinous proceedings:—

“DEAR NELSON,

July 4th, 1797.

“I WAS very happy to find you had executed with so much success and promptitude, Lord St. Vincent's order for the

evacuation of Porto Ferrajo. I feel for poor Oakes on every account, and sincerely wish he was safe at home; and, believe me, I am also much concerned at the state of your own health. After such long and distinguished service, you will of course get leave to return. In answer to your last letter, I can only say, that I hope and believe our confidence is mutual; therefore, in future, no more apology on either side is wanted. Under this idea, I must begin by defending an officer, against whom you have become prejudiced: want of discipline in some of our home squadrons, and the energy of infamous incendiaries, had for many months thrown the whole fleet into a state of democracy and absolute rebellion. I rejoice that the Theseus has fallen into such good hands, and that I shall shortly hear she is in the best order of the Mediterranean fleet. One word more about what has passed at Spithead, Plymouth, and the Nore, and I will never mention the disgraceful business again; but I cannot pass over your remark about short weights and measures. Every officer must know, that, by the old allowance, the men on board the king's ships had more provisions than they could consume, and that they always sold a part; therefore, an increase of provisions was not wanted. I will not hurt your mind by relating the horrid particulars of the late events, but shall conclude the subject by observing, that in your next you will unsay what you have too hastily expressed. I dread nothing, as the Government here appear to pursue proper measures, and I am convinced St. Vincent will keep up his fleet in discipline. Lenity at first is severity at the last. My best wishes and compliments attend your gallant commander: my only acquaintance with him is as an officer. His very great attention and abilities were shewn to me during the Spanish armament; since which time I have, and always shall respect him. You will, I am sure, always distinguish yourself; and I am afraid, from the exorbitant demands of the Directory, that for some time your fleet will be constantly employed. I am happy to find you are at last come over to my way of ~~of~~ thinking. As circum-

stances arise, pray write, and ever believe me, dear sir,
yours sincerely,

“WILLIAM.”

That the Duke did not stand alone, in the opinion that the complaints of the seamen were for the most part unfounded in fact, appears from Admiral Duncan's speech to his crew, when he found himself deserted by part of his fleet, which went to join the mutineers at the Nore. “My lads,” said the gallant veteran, “I once more call you together with a sorrowful heart, from what I have lately seen—the disaffection of the fleets : I call it disaffection, for the crews have no grievances. To be deserted by my fleet, in the face of an enemy, is a disgrace which, I believe, never before happened to a British admiral ; nor could I have supposed it possible. My greatest comfort, under God, is, that I have been supported by the officers, seamen, and marines of this ship ; for which, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, I request you to accept my sincere thanks. I flatter myself, much good may result from your example, by bringing those deluded people to a sense of their duty, which they owe not only their King and country, but to themselves.

“The British navy has ever been the support of that liberty which has been handed down to us by our ancestors, and which, I trust, we shall maintain to the latest posterity ; and that can only be done by unanimity and obedience. This ship's company, and others, who have distinguished themselves by their loyalty and good order deserve to be, and doubtless will be, the favourites of a grateful country. They will also have, from their inward feelings, a comfort which will be lasting, and not like

the floating and false confidence of those who have swerved from their duty.

“ It has often been my pride, with you, to look into the Texel, and see a foe which dreaded coming out to meet us : my pride is now humbled indeed ! My feelings are not easily to be expressed ! Our cup has overflowed, and made us wanton. The all-wise Providence has given us this check as a warning, and I hope we shall improve by it. On Him then let us trust, where our only security can be found. I find there are many good men among us ; for my own part, I have had full confidence of all in this ship, and once more beg to express my approbation of your conduct.

“ May God, who has thus far conducted you, continue to do so ; and may the British navy, the glory and support of our country, be restored to its wonted splendour, and be not only the bulwark of Britain, but the terror of the world !

“ But this can only be effected by a strict adherence to our duty and obedience ; and let us pray that the Almighty God may keep us in the right way of thinking. —God bless you all.”

At an address so unassuming, and so well adapted, by its simplicity and truth, to touch the feelings, the whole ship's crew were dissolved in tears. They declared their resolution to stand by their commander to the last extremity. Encouraged by this example, which was followed by all the remaining ships, the admiral, though reduced in force, resumed his station on the coast of Holland ; from whence he was driven by an autumnal storm into Yarmouth roads. On receiving intelligence that the enemy, amounting to fifteen sail of the line, had taken advantage of his absence, ~~and~~ put to sea ; the

admiral hastened to meet them, and, on the eleventh of October, the two fleets came in sight of each other off Camperdown. A severe battle ensued, which terminated in the capture of the Dutch commander-in-chief, Admiral De Winter, and his Vice-admiral Reyntjies, with seven other ships of the line, and two frigates. The number of killed and wounded on both sides was very great. On the part of the British, the loss of Captain Richard Burgess of the *Ardent* was much lamented by his friends and brother officers. He was a native of Topsham in Devonshire, a county remarkable for the number and renown of its naval heroes. Captain Burgess led the *Ardent* into action in a very gallant and skilful manner; and though the signal was twice made for him to engage, he did not think his ship close enough, but reserved his fire till he was so near that every shot struck the enemy. The *Ardent* was soon after surrounded by five antagonists, among whom was the Dutch admiral. In this situation the captain gloriously fell—but with victory.

Among the captured ships was the *Delft*, of fifty-six guns. Her first-lieutenant was a Dane, of the name of Heiberg, who remained on board to the last. She struck to the Monmouth, after a hard-fought action; and when Mr., now Admiral, Bullen, the first-lieutenant, went on board the prize, he found her much damaged, having many shots through her hull, and her mainmast carried away: two officers, and forty-one of her men, were killed; and one officer, and seventy-five men, were wounded. Mr. Bullen sent the captain, with two officers and ninety men, on board his own ship; and requested Heiberg, who was not wounded, to assist him, with the men under his command, in preventing the *Delft* from sinking. In this ~~the~~ they succeeded, till a storm came on,

three days after, which put the vessel in a very perilous situation ; and as there was now ten feet water in the hold, her fate soon became evident. Mr. Bullen represented this to Heiberg, telling him that, at a certain signal, he should throw himself, with his men, into the long-boat ; and pressed him to follow his example. " But," replied the noble-minded Dane, " how can I leave these unfortunate men ?" at the same time pointing to the wounded sailors, who had been brought upon deck, as the hold was already full of water. Mr. Bullen, struck with this generous feeling, cried, " God bless you, my brave fellow, here is my hand ; I give you my word, that I will stay here with you." He then caused his own men to leave the sinking ship, and remained behind himself to assist the Dutch. The Russel soon sent her boats to their succour, and brought off as many as could leap into them, but few of the wounded could be saved, though the two officers joined their efforts for that purpose, and still continued in the vessel, with three subalterns and about thirty scamen : they were still cherishing the hope that the boats would come time enough to complete the work of deliverance, when the Delft went down. Mr. Bullen sprung into the sea, and swam to his ship ; but poor Heiberg perished, the victim of heroic humanity.

On the arrival of Admiral Duncan at the Nore, he was visited by the King, who created him a viscount ; made the Vice-admiral Onslow, a baronet, and conferred the ancient honour of knight-banneret on Captains Trollope and Fairfax. The thanks of both houses of parliament were also voted to Lord Duncan and his compatriots, for having so nobly redeemed the lustre of the British flag, and defeated the great project that had been

formed, to humble the nation at the feet of republican France.

So sensible was the government of the importance of this victory, that Lord Spencer, in announcing the intended motion of thanks to the admiral, officers, and men of the North-sea fleet, moved that the peers should be summoned; a distinction that had never been shown before on any similar occasion.

The proposal was unanimously acceded to, and the vote passed with acclamation. When Lord Duncan was introduced on the 8th of November, the chancellor communicated to him the resolution of the house in a very elegant speech; to which his lordship replied, that, being unused to public speaking, and overpowered by his feelings, he could only express his sense of the honour conferred on him, by returning thanks for the high distinction he had received, and which would, he said, be ever impressed on his memory.

The Duke of Clarence then moved that the speech of the chancellor, and the noble lord's reply, should be entered upon the journals; which was ordered.

In another quarter, British valour proved this year very unsuccessful; and what rendered the disaster more distressing, was the reflection that many valuable lives were sacrificed without reason, upon an unprofitable, and, as it appeared, an impracticable object. After the victory off Cape St. Vincent, Rear-admiral Nelson was chiefly employed in the blockade of Cadiz, where he distinguished himself by bombarding the place, and venturing his person in attacks with his boats upon the Spanish vessels in the harbour. This harassing warfare, however, did not well suit the enterprising spirit of Nelson, who therefore suggested to Earl St. Vincent a project for the capture

of the island of Teneriffe. His lordship approved of the plan, and placed at the disposal of the rear-admiral, seven ships and one thousand marines. On the 15th of July, this squadron came before the port of Santa Cruz, and took possession of the town; but they had scarce done so, when it was found that the English military force was neither able to carry the citadel, nor to encounter the troops that were on the march from different parts of the island. It was, therefore, necessary for the invaders to make good their retreat; but here again they found themselves embarrassed, for the surf on the beach had so damaged the boats, that an embarkation was next to impossible. In this situation they were summoned to surrender; but Captain Trowbridge, who headed the party, refused, and declared that he would not capitulate as long as he had a man left alive. The Spanish governor then sent a message to the captain, stating, that, to spare the effusion of blood, facilities should be provided for conveying himself and his people to their ships. The offer was accepted, and the generous Spaniard not only furnished boats, but supplied them with wine and provisions. It is painful to record, that not the least notice was taken of this act of liberality, in the admiral's despatches to Government. The loss sustained in this rash enterprise, equalled that of the battle off Cape St. Vincent. Among the slain was the captain, Richard Bowen, of the *Terpsichore*, one of the best officers in the service. He was a native of Ilfracombe in Devonshire, where in the parish church is a monument erected to his memory, by a vote of parliament. Admiral Nelson, while on shore, had his arm so shattered by a cannon ball, that amputation became indispensable. To these disasters must be added the melancholy fate of Lieu-

tenant Gibson, commander of the Fox, cutter, who with his whole crew perished by a shot fired from the fort, which sunk the vessel in an instant. Expeditions of this daring kind are highly extolled, when they prove successful; but considering the hazardous nature of them, and the waste of valuable lives with which they are attended, a prudent commander will pause before he gives his consent to such desperate undertakings. So, at least, thought that great and good officer, Collingwood, who never would encourage any dashing operations, where the point to be gained was trivial and the loss of life certain.

In consequence of the injuries he had suffered, Admiral Nelson immediately returned to England, where he met with a most sympathetic reception from his steady friend the Duke of Clarence. His Royal Highness was at Bushy Park, of which he had just been appointed ranger, on the death of the dowager Countess of Guildford, when the intelligence of the arrival of Nelson drew him away from the improvements which he was superintending, to greet and console the associate of his former years. The interview, after so long an absence, and under such circumstances, was affecting: but there is a spirit in man which will sustain his infirmity; and the wounds of the brave are soon healed, because the mind, by its resolution, gives efficacy to means, which would, in many cases, without its aid, be wholly inert. The recovery of Nelson was so rapid, that, in a short time, he was able to accompany his illustrious friend to court, where he presented to the King a memorial of his services, which of course did not go unrewarded.

As it was now felt more than ever, if possible, that the bulwark of the nation is the British navy; and as the recent attempts to disorganize that great department had

shewn how easy it might be to render this defence useless, the Sovereign wisely resolved to display the importance of the marine service in one view, by a naval procession to the metropolitan cathedral.

The nineteenth of December was the day fixed for this great solemnity, and fortunately the weather proved uncommonly fine for that time of the year, which rendered the spectacle particularly brilliant and impressive.

Long before daylight, the houses in the streets through which the procession was to pass, were filled with spectators, many of whom came from a considerable distance, during the night. About seven o'clock the military moved to their respective stations.. The Foot Guards took the duty from St. James's to Temple Bar, inside of which the streets were lined by the city militia, the East India volunteers, and several other corps of the same description. At eight o'clock, the seamen and marines, chosen to escort the colours, formed before the Admiralty. The procession began with two flags taken from the French—three from the Spaniards—and four from the Dutch. The colours were carried on artillery waggons, each set attended by a party of lieutenants on foot, who had served in the several engagements in which they were won.

A large detachment of marines, with music, followed; and the whole corps took their stations in the cathedral, from the west door to the choir. The following admirals brought up the rear of this part of the procession—Viscount Duncan, Sir Charles Thompson, Sir Richard Onslow, Sir Alan Gardner, Sir Thomas Pasley, Sir Roger Curtis, Sir Horatio Nelson, Lord Hugh Seymour, Caldwell, Waldegrave, Hamilton, Goodall, Young,

Lindsay, Gambier, Bazeley, and Captain Sir Henry Trollope.

This was certainly the most interesting part of the spectacle; and the dignified deportment of the gallant sons of the ocean produced a powerful effect upon the beholders.

The Lords and Commons followed in order; the Chancellor in the rear of the one, and the Speaker in that of the other.

These parts of the procession reached the cathedral about nine; and, soon after ten, the firing of the Park guns announced that their Majesties had entered their carriages—preceded by the Dukes of Gloucester, York, and Clarence, with their respective suites.

At Temple Bar, the usual formalities took place, on the entrance of the King into the city; and then the Lord Mayor, with the municipal authorities, by deputation, rode in their robes, bareheaded, before their Majesties, to St. Paul's.

When the procession reached the church, the lieutenants, taking the flags from the waggon, attended by the seamen and marines, divided into two lines, for the captains to pass to their seats in the galleries.

The colours were carried in procession, with martial music, to the middle of the dome, where they were placed in a circle. The Princesses, with the Dukes of York and Clarence, Prince Ernest, and the Duke of Gloucester, formed a crescent within the church; and opposite to their Royal Highnesses, were the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and Admirals, waiting to receive their Majesties. The Common Council of London, in their mazarine gowns, were ranged, with

their ladies, in two galleries, which filled the semicircle of the dome.

The King, on his alighting at the church, was received by the Bishops of London and Lincoln, who walked one on each side, preceded by the heralds at arms, and prebendaries of the church. The Queen, followed with her suit, and the other members of the Royal Family, with their attendants, closed the procession. On their arrival within the circle, the colours were lowered; and the royal party made their obeisances to the company assembled, which were returned with acclamations.

The service then began; and, at the end of the first lesson, the flag-officers entered in two divisions, right and left of the King's chair, the ends of the flags supported by those officers who immediately followed the bearers in regular succession, advancing to the altar to deposit the naval trophies. The King was observed to be much affected by this ceremony, and the whole assembly participated in his feelings.

The Bishop of Lincoln, dean of St. Paul's, then preached an appropriate sermon from the first three verses of the twenty-third of the second book of Samuel. The whole concluded with the anthem that had been sung when Queen Anne went to St. Paul's, to return thanks for the victories gained by the immortal Marlborough.

In returning, the order of the procession was reversed, their Majesties going first.

The naval exploits celebrated in this scenic display were those of Lord Howe, on the 1st of June, 1794—of Lord Hotham, on the 14th of March, 1795—of Lord Bridport, on the 23d of June, 1795—of Lord St. Vincent, on the 14th of February, 1797—of Rear Admiral Harvey,

at Trinidad, the 17th of February, 1797—of Lord Keith, at the Cape of Good Hope, the 17th of August—and of Lord Duncan, the 11th of October, 1797.

Some days after this spectacle, the King sat to Sir William Beechy, the painter, and not to Barry, as some publications have stated. In the course of conversation, his Majesty asked the artist whether he had seen the procession? Sir William said, he had been favoured with a fine view of the whole line, from an excellent situation in Ludgate Street. The King answered, “Then you had the advantage of me; for I could only see the coachman and his horses.”

This year witnessed a painful change in the Royal Family, by the marriage of the elder Princess to the Prince of Wurtemberg, at St. James's, on the 18th of May. In the ceremonial, the Duke of Clarence supported his royal sister; but the scene was a very affecting one, and the King and Queen could not suppress their tears at a separation, which they had in vain endeavoured to prevent. The Princess soon after left England, and saw her parents no more.

CHAPTER VI.

A. D. 1797 TO 1800.

THE autumnal session of Parliament, which met on the 22d of November, 1797, was rendered remarkable by the secession of the members of the opposition in both houses. Mr. Fox justified this conduct of himself and his friends, by saying, that their attendance could serve no other purpose than that of holding out false hopes to the people.

This, to say the least of it, was dangerous doctrine, when the French were making immense preparations for a landing upon our shores—when the discontent in our fleets had but just been allayed—when the agents of the enemy were still actively employed in disseminating revolutionary principles—and especially when Ireland was known to be on the eve of rebellion.

Such was the state of the nation at this gloomy period; notwithstanding which, and the increasing burden of a taxation upon property, the spirit of loyalty and patriotism was never more conspicuous, energetic, and general, than when every thing around appeared calculated to create despondency.

The lofty pride of the nation, however, was roused to the highest pitch of enthusiasm by the threats of the French to destroy the modern Carthage, as England was now termed in the vocabulary of the imitators of republican Rome. In one point, certainly, the parallel

might be just, for the enmity of the two nations now displayed itself in equal resolution on both sides, with this difference only, that, while the French breathed nothing but conquest and extermination, their opponents indignantly arrayed themselves for defence only. Numbers who had, at the outset, expressed a warm concern for the revolutionary cause, under an idea that its success would be beneficial to France and to mankind, were now so disgusted with the sanguinary and tyrannical conduct of the regicides, that they gladly entered the associations which were formed in every corner of the kingdom, for the repulsion of a foe, faithless in his engagements, and cruel in his conquests.

The war, though disastrous, had completely developed the character of the enemy, and disclosed his objects; so that there was not a man gifted with reason, and honest in the use of it, but felt convinced of the necessity of arming for the preservation of the national independence. It was the cause of every individual member of the community, high and low, rich and poor, prince and peasant: as such it was universally understood, and as such it was acknowledged and acted upon throughout Great Britain, by the old and young, with one heart and one mind, unalloyed by any selfish ideas, or party spirit.

Amidst this display of genuine patriotism, one dark spot appeared, to depress the grandeur and tarnish the glory of the scene. While every other part of the empire exhibited a spirit of eager unanimity at the prospect of being called upon to resist the common enemy, Ireland alone formed a melancholy exception, and, at the very moment when the whole British coast, from the Land's End, in the west, to the Orkneys,

presented a circumvallation of living defence against the invader, the sister isle was prepared to receive him, and join his standard. So impatient, indeed, were the Irish conspirators, that, without waiting for the arrival of their republican friends and liberators, they broke out into open rebellion in the middle of May, and were not joined by any part of the promised force from France till the month of August. This precipitancy in the one, and delay of the other, proved essentially beneficial to the royal cause, by defeating the insurgents in detail, and ultimately reducing them to despair by the capture of the whole foreign army of auxiliaries.

During these afflicting scenes, the Duke of Clarence actively employed himself in training a body of Yeomanry, consisting of substantial farmers, and other respectable persons, in the hundred of Spelthorne, to which Bushy Park belongs. Stimulated by the example and flattered by the attention of their illustrious commander, the Spelthorne corps soon obtained a very high distinction, and the Duke declared that he should not fear to lead his gallant men, young as they were, into the front of an action. In one of his animating addresses, he said, "Wherever you are, I shall be ; and that the issue will be glory, cannot admit of a doubt."

But, fortunately, their services were not required in the field of battle. The French government had now another object in view ; and, from the immense preparations then making, it was not difficult to divine the destination of the expedition. Buonaparte himself, aptly enough, designated the naval and military force that was placed under his command, as "the right wing of the army of England." On the 20th of May, 1798, he left Toulon, with fifty thousand men, and the fleet, after passing

Sicily was joined by Admiral Brueys, with a squadron of Venetian ships of war from Corfu. That officer then hoisted his flag, as commander-in-chief, on board the *Orient*, of one hundred and twenty guns. After a run of eighteen days, this formidable armament, now swelled to three hundred sail, including men of war and transports, appeared off Malta, of which island, hitherto deemed impregnable, instant possession was taken, not by valour, but through treachery. This valuable post being secured, the fleet again set sail, and on the 30th of June came to anchor in the roads of Alexandria.

Buonaparte, well knowing that his route could not escape British vigilance, disembarked his troops immediately, with the intention also of securing the fleet in the port of Alexandria. Here, however, he was disappointed, for the ships drew too much water to admit of their passage over the bar, even without their stores and artillery. Under such circumstances, he ought to have sent his large ships to Malta, in which case his frigates and lighter vessels might have been sheltered from any other attack than that of boats, which even Nelson would hardly have attempted. Instead of adopting this obvious measure of precaution, the commander moored his fleet in an open bay, presenting, indeed, a formidable battery seaward, but one that was far from being a sure defence; as the event proved, by the facility with which the English ships passed within side of the French, who from their position were thus exposed to a double fire. According to Denon, who witnessed the action from the shore, "Buonaparte, wishing to bring the fleet into the harbour of Alexandria, offered two thousand sequins to any one who should accomplish it; and it was said, that several cap-

tains of merchantmen had sounded, and found a passage for the whole into the old harbour. The evil genius of France, however, counselled and persuaded the admiral to moor his ships in the bay of Aboukir, and thus to change in one day the result of a long train of successes." Thus concludes the French artist: "We found that our situation was altered, and that, separated from the mother country, we were become the inhabitants of a distant colony, where we should be obliged to depend on our own resources for subsistence until the peace. We learned, in short, that the English fleet had surrounded our line, which was not moored sufficiently near to the land to be protected by the batteries; and that the enemy, formed in a double line, had attacked our ships one after the other, and had by this manœuvre prevented them from acting in concert, rendering one half of the fleet a witness of the destruction of the other half. We learned, lastly, that the first of August had broken the unity of our forces; and that the destruction of our fleet, by which the lustre of our glory was tarnished, had restored to the enemy the empire of the Mediterranean; an empire which had been wrested from them by the matchless exploits of our armies, and which could only have been secured to us by the existence of our ships of war."

This involuntary encomium from an enemy forcibly illustrates the emphatic observation of Nelson, that the battle of the Nile was not a victory, but a conquest. It was so in the fullest sense of the word, by totally changing the aspect of the war, and rousing the torpid energies of all the great European powers, including even the Ottoman, to vigorous exertion against French domination. But it merits a remark, that the expedition

of Buonaparte, and its failure, had an effect nearer home. Had the vast naval and military force been directed, not to the subjugation of Egypt, but the invasion of Ireland, the consequences might have proved fatal to the sovereignty of Britain over that country. The destruction of the fleet in the bay of Aboukir, and the segregation of the army from France, put an end to the hopes of adding Ireland to the republic, as well as to the design of proceeding to India by the way of Egypt; both which objects, however distinct and extravagant they might appear to the superficial observer, were certainly contemplated by the Directory, in this gigantic enterprise. Boulay Paty, the French minister of marines, before the news arrived of the misfortune that had occurred on the coast of Egypt, urged, in the council of five hundred, the necessity of an increase of the navy. "If," said he, "on the one side, Alexander formerly traced out the route of an army by land to the Indies; if Seleucus Nicanor marched to the Ganges; if even speculations of Indian commerce point out a course of glory to the armies of liberty; if at this moment Egypt, Arabia, and Persia behold the Gauls carrying liberty to the two Indies, by giving freedom to Bengal; on the other side, twenty barbarous nations point out the route to England, and, by their success, the various places for a descent upon the British isles."

The triumph of Nelson, however, not only saved Ireland, but India, from the blessing of French liberation, by cutting off all the reinforcements and supplies necessary for the prosecution of the ulterior object of Buonaparte, who, instead of sailing down the Arabian gulf, was compelled to waste his time and resources in fruitless combats with the sons of the desert.

Of this unparalleled victory, the great commander wrote a minute account to the Duke of Clarence ; but unfortunately, the interesting narrative fell into the hands of the French, when Captain Thompson of the *Leander* was compelled to strike to the *Genereux*. In a subsequent letter from Naples, Nelson says :

“ I knew my letter to your Royal Highness, by the *Leander*, was lost, by the unfortunate capture of that ship, and I trust you will forgive my not writing so much as my inclination in truth prompts me to do : but I find my left hand is fully employed in not only the business of the squadron, but also in working in the good cause in this country. The wind moderates, and I am going off to try and sail. My heart is true to the good cause, and I wish to approve myself a faithful servant to the best of masters. May God bless your Royal Highness, is the sincere prayer of your attached and affectionate—NELSON.”

In November following, Nelson sent a letter to the Duke, by Captain, since Admiral, Sir Thomas Hardy :—

“ I beg leave to present to your Royal Highness, Captain Hardy, late of the *Foudroyant*, an officer of the most distinguished merit, and therefore highly worthy of your notice. He will tell you of my arduous work in this country, and that all my anxiety is at present occasioned by the desire of possessing Malta. But I fear, notwithstanding my exertions, that I shall not get any British troops from Minorca. I am impatiently waiting the arrival of General Fox, and hope he will not consider the order for the removal of one or two regiments, of such great consequence as the reduction of Malta, by keeping them for two months longer in the Mediterranean. On the one hand, they must, in England,

or on the Continent, be like a drop of water in the ocean. By staying here, and being employed, they would liberate us from our enemy close to our door, gratify the Emperor of Russia, protect our Levant trade, and relieve a squadron of our ships from this service; besides giving us one eighty-gun ship, two forty-gun frigates, a Maltese new ship of the line ready for sea, and two frigates. With these in the scale, I cannot comprehend how a moment can be lost in deciding; but I find few think as I do. To obey orders, is all perfection—to serve my King, and to destroy the French, I consider as the great order of all, from which little ones spring; and if one of these militate against it, (for who can tell exactly at a distance,) I go back, and obey the great order and object—to down, down, with the d——d French villains. Excuse my warmth, but my blood boils at the name of a Frenchman. I hate them all, royalists and republicans.”

Malta, however, was added to the British empire two years afterwards.

The only officer of superior rank who fell in this great action, was Captain Westcott, of the *Majestic*. His father was a baker at Honiton, in Devonshire; which profession leading him to a connexion with the millers, young Westcott used frequently to be sent to the mill. Once, when there, an accident happened to the machinery by the breaking of a rope; and neither the owner, nor any of his men, being equal to the task of repairing, Westcott offered to use his skill in splicing it, although attended with danger and difficulty. His offer was accepted; and the job was executed with such nicety, that the miller told him, “he was fit for a sailor, since he could splice a rope so well;” adding, that “if he

should ever have any inclination to go to sea, he would endeavour to get him a birth." Accordingly, an opportunity presented itself, which the lad embraced, and began his career as a cabin-boy. His activity and good behaviour soon introduced him among the midshipmen; after which, he rose rapidly, by his merit, till he obtained the rank of post-captain. The esteem in which the inhabitants of Honiton held him and his family was affectionately manifested on the intelligence of his death. The ringing of bells, and illuminations, were omitted, out of respect to his memory.

On the 14th of November, this year, Prince Edward landed at Portsmouth, from North America, where, and in the East Indies, he had been actively employed ever since the commencement of the war. Shortly after his arrival, his Royal Highness was advanced to the peerage, by the title of Duke of Kent; and, at the same time, his brother, Prince Ernest, was created Duke of Cumberland.

Why these honours, which, in former reigns, were usually bestowed as soon as the royal personages came of age, should, in the present case, have been so long withheld, cannot well be accounted for, unless upon the supposition that the delay arose from an unwillingness to increase the public burdens, by parliamentary grants for the support of the titles. Suitable settlements now became indispensable for that purpose, and, accordingly, an annuity of twelve thousand pounds was voted, without hesitation, by the House of Commons, to each of the newly created Royal Dukes.

Soon after this, the Duke of Clarence obtained the full rank of Admiral, by the rules of service, and not as a peculiar mark of paternal favour or approbation. In vain were his applications made to the ministry, and the

board of Admiralty, for employment at sea; and to all his personal solicitations and written remonstrances, the King either remained silent, or returned frigid answers of unexplained refusal.

It was nearly the same with the Prince of Wales. When every part of Great Britain presented an armed force to repel invasion, and when Ireland was in open rebellion, the Prince strove in vain for the privilege, which he conceived himself entitled to by his birth and station, of standing forth at the head of an army, in defence of the crown he was destined to wear, and of the rights and liberties he was born to maintain. His repeated demands were met by a positive denial, and his entreaties were put off with evasive excuses. Under the mortification which he felt at this treatment, it is said that he either wrote, or caused to be written, a letter to the King, in the following terms:—

“SIR,—I have, from various considerations of duty and respect, delayed to the latest hour obtruding myself, by a direct application to your Majesty; and it is now with an earnestness with which I never before ventured to approach you, Sir, that I presume to throw myself at your feet, and to implore your gracious attention to the humble sentiments I offer in this letter. •

“The serious and awful crisis in which this country now stands, calls for the united efforts of every British arm, in the defence of all that can be dear to Englishmen; and it is with glowing pride that I behold the prevalence of this sentiment through every part of your Majesty’s kingdom.

“Whatever may, some time back, have been your Majesty’s objections to my being in the way of actual service; yet, at a crisis like this, unexampled in our

history—when every subject in the realm is eagerly seeking for, and has his post assigned him; those objections will, I humbly trust, yield to the pressure of the times, and your Majesty will be graciously pleased to call me forth to a station wherein I may prove myself worthy of the confidence of my country, and of the high rank I hold in it, by staking my life in its defence: death would be preferable to being marked as the *only man* that was not suffered to come forth on such an occasion.

“Should it be my fate to fall in so glorious a contest, no injury could arise to the line of succession, on account of the number happily remaining of your Majesty’s children. At the same time, were there fifty princes, or, were I the single one, it would, in my humble judgment, be equally incumbent on them, or me, to stand foremost in the ranks of danger at so decisive a period as the present.

“I am the more induced to confide, that your Majesty’s goodness will comply with this humble petition, from the conviction I feel, that, had similar circumstances prevailed in the reign of the late king, when your Majesty was Prince of Wales, you would have panted, Sir, for the opportunity I now so earnestly covet. I know your Majesty, and am fixed in this belief; and I should hold myself unworthy of my descent and station, if a tamer impulse could now possess me. Still more to justify this confidence, allow me to recall to your Majesty’s recollection the expressions you were graciously pleased to use, when I solicited foreign service, upon my first coming into the army. They were, Sir, that your Majesty did not then see the opportunity for it; but that if any thing was to arise at home, I ought to be one of the first and foremost.

“ My character with the nation, my honour, my future fame, and prospects in life, are now all at stake. I therefore supplicate your Majesty to afford me those means for their preservation, which affection for my country, and devotion to my sovereign, would have prompted me to solicit, even though my birth and station had not rendered it my duty to claim them. I presume in no respect to prescribe to your Majesty the mode of being employed : what I humbly, but most earnestly solicit, is, the certainty of active service, in such a character as to your Majesty shall seem fit.”

The appeal to his Majesty's own feelings, in case he had been so neglected when Prince of Wales, was rather unfortunate. It reminded him of the partiality of the king, his grandfather, to his second son, in preference to the heir-apparent, when the last effort was made to restore the line of Stuart. Frederick Prince of Wales, though so nearly concerned, was thrown into the shade and depreciated, that all the glory of extinguishing the rebellion might redound to William, Duke of Cumberland, who, whatever might be his merits, certainly was in no respect superior to his brother, either in talents or virtues.

The present allusion, therefore, though incidental only to that portion of the family history, was not calculated to draw the King from his purpose ; inasmuch as it conveyed a reflection upon his Majesty, by comparing his conduct to that of George the Second, whose memory he never held in much veneration.

A circumstance occurred shortly after this, which tended still more to mortify the spirits of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence.

Government having been assured that the appearance

of a naval and military force on the coast of Holland, would produce a general rising in that country against the French, prepared a large armament, which was joined at the Helder by a body of Russians. That part of the enterprise which was directed to the capture of the Dutch fleet in the Texel, succeeded without bloodshed, by the voluntary surrender of all the ships of war at the first summons to Admiral Mitchell, who commanded on this occasion in the room of Lord Duncan. But on land, the Duke of York, who had the entire command of the allied army, was less fortunate, owing to the vigour of the French, and the apathy of the Dutch; so that his Royal Highness found himself under the necessity of negotiating with the enemy for a suspension of hostilities, and an evacuation of the country.

Thus terminated an expedition, upon which much expectation had been founded; and which, perhaps, might have had a different turn, but for the dilatory conduct of the executive departments. During the preparations, it was thought that, as the Duke of York was to have the command of the forces, his brother would have hoisted his flag, and shared the glory of the service. The opportunity favoured such an appointment; but the very suggestion of it was rejected, and thus the Royal Admiral lost the object of his laudable ambition, that of receiving the thanks of Parliament and his country.

This marked distinction in the treatment of the two brothers surprised all, and could be accounted for by few, even of those who were possessed of the best means of information. As to the Prince, there were, no doubt, paramount reasons of state for not risking his person in foreign service, especially at such a crisis: but the case

was far otherwise with the Duke of Clarence, whose graduation in the navy during a period of twenty years gave him a right to complain, that while his juniors were gaining trophies, and immortalizing their names, his honours were merely nominal, and even the laurels of his youth were now faded, or become painful in the remembrance. That the main cause of this proscription was of a political nature, cannot be doubted; and the present history affords a general proof of the danger accruing to princes becoming the associates of party. Such connexions are always injurious to the royal personages who enter into them, by taking away that lofty spirit of independence, which can alone render public character influential to the national welfare. Instead of enjoying the esteem and confidence of the entire community, the illustrious partisans are extravagantly flattered by one division, and viewed with suspicious jealousy by the other. No person of his high station ever experienced this more than the Prince of Wales; and yet such was the force of habit, and the attraction of early friendship, that he could not disentangle himself from the trammels.

At this very period his Royal Highness resumed, after a secession of five or six years, his station as the head of the opposition; so far, at least, as to espouse the wild project of organizing a new administration, of which neither Pitt nor Fox should form a part. The scheme, however, perished in embryo, but not without being made the subject of much public discussion at tavern meetings, and other political coteries. The worst of its effects was a wider separation of the Sovereign from his sons, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Clarence.

CHAPTER VII.

A. D. 1798 TO 1800.

THE great subject which at this time occupied public attention was the projected legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland. This measure was recommended first to the Irish Parliament, by the Lord Lieutenant, at the opening of the session, January 22, 1799 ; and to each of the two houses here, four days afterwards, in a message from the King, expressing his wish that means might be provided in both kingdoms for their common security, and of consolidating, as far as possible, into one firm and lasting fabric, the strength, the power, and the resources of the British empire.

In England the proposed union was favourably entertained, both in and out of parliament. The resolutions brought forward by the ministers were vigorously opposed by Mr. since Earl Grey and Mr. Sheridan ; but the speeches of those orators made so little impression, that in the division only fifteen voices could be numbered against the proposition. In the house of lords, the triumph of Government was still more complete ; the measure being carried without any division, though not without debate. Among its supporters, the bishop of Landaff, Dr. Watson, particularly distinguished himself. The learned prelate, in the course of his elaborate speech, took the oppor-

tunity of observing, that when the late Duke of Rutland was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, certain propositions were brought forward in parliament, which certainly met with his approbation. Writing at that time to the noble Duke upon the subject of them, he observed, that his Grace would immortalize his name, and the names of all who acted with him, if he could but accomplish a legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland. The Duke in his answer used these words, "I perfectly approve of your idea concerning a union : but I must tell you, that any man who could be found bold enough to propose such a measure here at this time, would be tarred and feathered."

The bishop concluded with predicting, "that the union, if carried, would enrich Ireland, without impoverishing Great Britain ; and thus render both countries the most powerful in the world."

It was not easy, however, to persuade the Irish people that such would be the beneficial effects of the proposed sacrifice of their shadowy independence. National pride is not always to be considered as the sign of true patriotism.

In the present instance, the effervescent zeal of the Irish against the union had the appearance of keen sensibility for the honour of their country. Previous to the meeting of the parliament of that kingdom, public associations were formed, the object of which was, to prevent the consolidation of the two legislatures, and to instruct their representatives to oppose any such measure in every stage of its progress.

Accordingly, after a contest in which all the power of eloquence, and all the virulence of passion, were called into exercise, the anti-unionists defeated ministers by

the small majority of five votes—the numbers on the proposed address being one hundred and six for the clause in favour of the measure, and one hundred and eleven against it.

The ebullition of joy excited by this pitiful triumph, where the chances were so nearly balanced, did little credit to the judgment or the feelings of the people. The unionists were vilified and insulted as the enemies of their country; while the popular orators, who had distinguished themselves by their speeches in parliament, were lauded with the most extravagant panegyric, as genuine patriots, who had saved Ireland from destruction. Meanwhile, men of sober minds, and serious reflection, took a larger view of things; and, therefore, were not surprised when, shortly after the subsidence of this ferment, they saw the political current pursuing an opposite direction, and the union carried triumphantly through the same Parliament by which it had been proscribed. On the 2d of July, 1800, the royal assent was given to the bill for incorporating the two kingdoms, the first day of the ensuing year being fixed as the commencement of the new era.

This, unquestionably, was a great victory; and the management by which it was effected, displayed masterly skill and penetration in the application of means for removing those obstacles, and subduing those prejudices, which ordinary men would have regarded as insurmountable.

The same motive which governed and impelled the opponents of the union, was now drawn effectually to its service, by the magical influence of that power which softens the sternest will, and converts the declared enemy into an effectual assistant:—

“ Ille admirans venerabile donum
Fatalis virgæ.”

“ The rich oblation reconciles the god,
Who bows with reverence to the golden rod.”

But a change from one extreme to another, and that within so small a space of time, will not appear extraordinary, if the following picture of that part of Ireland, bordering on the capital, be taken as a specimen of the rest. It was written in a private letter to a friend, just before the union :—

“ I am just returned,” says the writer, “ from an excursion through the counties of Dublin, Kildare, and Carlow; and in which, I am sorry to say, I found the vestiges of the late rebellion, not more visible in the demolition and burning of houses and villages, than in the conversation, sentiments, and character of the inhabitants. I had known those counties, and the dispositions and manners of their people, long before the commencement of the rebellion. I had known them to be gentle, humane, and possessed, perhaps, of more of the milk of human kindness than the lower order of people in most countries possess. I found them, if it be fair to give a general character of the people from the experience of an individual, with quite a new set of feelings: they had become familiar with cruelty; they could talk of torture and of death—not the death of an individual, but the slaughter of thousands—with the same apathy and listlessness as they would have spoken of any every-day incident. Death and suffering, indeed, seemed for them to have lost all their horror; and I have heard them relate the fall of hundreds

of their townsmen with a degree of circumstantial and cool accuracy, which proved that they felt in the relation the most perfect indifference. It was at a time when the assizes were holden in these counties, that I happened to visit them. Some convictions had taken place, and the criminals were executed during my stay. On former occasions of this kind, an execution would have set the town and its vicinity in motion, and have excited the lamentations and the curiosity of the peasantry for several miles round. Now, the most dreadful sentence which human laws can inflict was executed by the sheriff and his officers, with as little bustle and interest as would have attended his giving possession of a farmhouse, under an ejectment. The unfortunate victim of offended justice was drawn to the place of suffering, through a county-town, and scarcely attracted in his progress the attention of a single passenger ; or excited, in one instance, those expressions of pity or of sympathy, which are so natural, and so common, on such solemn occasions, in countries where the feelings of humanity have not been blunted by the frequency of scenes of still greater horror.

“ It has been the custom of these counties, since the rebellion, to exhibit to public view the heads of such as have suffered capital punishment for the part they took in those disturbances, by fixing them up in some conspicuous situation. On the gaol of Athy are fixed two of those heads ; but they are placed at such a height as not to shock the passenger by too near a view of human degradation in this state of corruption. The front gate of the new prison, however, which they have erected in Carlow, is not more than fifteen feet high, and, at that short distance from the traveller’s eye, are exhi-

bited these disgusting views of death in its most hideous form, familiarizing the mind of the passing peasant to the most horrid of all spectacles; and blunting in him those feelings of commiseration for human suffering, on which must always depend, in a great measure, the virtues of the populace. How far they tend to produce this effect, may be learned by the following anecdote:—

“While I was contemplating with horror this group of dreadful objects, in all of which, except one, you might distinctly trace the features, and mark the expression of the agonies of death, I asked a townsman who was passing, whether these heads had been all put up at the same time? and, on being told they were, I observed, it was strange that one of them was nearly stripped of flesh, while the others appeared yet perfect. He answered, ‘Sir, that head is the head of Mr. Keefe, of Ballyva. He was lying in a putrid fever when he was taken away by the military, and, after a short trial by a court-martial, was executed! They say it is because his flesh was putrid from his illness, that the skull has so soon been left bare; and, as to the jaw, sir, which, you may observe, is broken and hanging down, that was broken by some boys of the town, who amused themselves in throwing stones at it!’—I turned away with disgust from this shocking tale. What morals, said I, what feeling, what humanity, what virtue, can exist among a people, where, to insult the miserable remains of mortality, is the amusement of the populace?

“Nor is it merely among the lower order of the people that this spirit of ferocity has been excited and kept alive in Ireland. On the same day in which the

above conversation took place, I happened to dine in company with some of the first people of the town: there were some strangers present besides myself, who, after dinner, turned the conversation to the topic of these heads. It was observed by one stranger, that it was a violation of public decorum to obtrude such horrid spectacles so near the eye and observation of the passenger; by another, that it tended to harden and brutalize the public mind; and, by a third, that it was impolitic, now that the rebellion was completely crushed, to keep alive the animosity of party, by such public and disgusting monuments of crime and punishment: better would it be, he observed, to obliterate every remembrance of what was passed, by removing from the eye and ear of the public whatever could revive that recollection, or perpetuate sentiments which might again kindle into partial insurrection. ‘Sir,’ said one gentleman of the town, who seemed to speak the sense of his countrymen, ‘I wish we had more heads up, if it were likely they could again rouse the villains to insurrection; for we are fully able to put them down—and the more of them we despatch the better.’

“Such are the principles, and such the feelings, which seem to actuate every description of men, in a country once remarkable for good-nature, affection, and humanity.”

Of the other parliamentary business during this session, the only one in which we find that the Duke of Clarence particularly interested himself, was the African trade. On the 9th of May, 1799, his Royal Highness rose, and said, “It had been his intention to have submitted a motion to their lordships on the subject of the slave trade; but learning, since he came down to the house, from the

noble secretary of state, that, in fact, his motion would be unnecessary, he should reserve himself for some other opportunity; he trusted, however, that counsel would be heard at their lordships' bar, on the part of the West India planters and merchants, who were entitled to have every consideration paid to their interests which the house could bestow.

On the 5th of July, a bill was brought in to prohibit the trading for slaves on the coast of Africa, within certain limits. The object of the bill was said to be the removal of certain obstacles which that traffic threw in the way of the colony of Sierra Leone—an establishment formed with a view to the civilization of Africa; but which the West India proprietors and merchants, interested in the trade, considered as introductory to its total abolition.

In that view it was taken up by the Duke of Clarence, who, therefore, came armed with a great mass of documentary evidence, which he placed in the strongest light possible against all that had been brought forward by the abolitionists. His Royal Highness argued, that, from the gross barbarism of the Africans on the slave-coast, the transportation of those wretched beings to the West Indies was to themselves a blessing, instead of an evil; inasmuch as it saved them from certain destruction, and placed them in a state of comfort; that the colonies could not subsist without regular supplies; and that, as there was a capital of more than eighty millions employed by our merchants in the plantations, the extinction of the trade must be attended with the ruin of commerce, and consequently of the country; while the negroes, instead of being benefited, would be in a worse condition than ever. His Royal Highness detailed at great length

the tonnage of shipping, the mode of procuring the slaves, and their treatment in what was called the middle passage. He also took a review of what had been stated respecting the inhuman conduct of the traders in slaves, and of the purchasers of them in the colonies.

Lord Grenville, after expressing his admiration of the illustrious personage who had just spoken, observed, that between him and his Royal Highness there could be personally no debate, because between them there was no equality.

This extraordinary, and certainly very unconstitutional, doctrine, produced a call to order from the Earl of Romney; who said, that he agreed with the noble secretary of state that, personally, there was no equality between the illustrious Prince and any other member of that house; yet, that he always understood, as a peer, he stood in that house on a perfect equality with any personage in it, as to the right of speaking.

Lord Thurlow, also, to the same effect, said—I wish to have it clearly understood, whether it is the constitution of this house that we are unequal in our rights to speak here. I am one of the lowest, in point of rank; I contend not for superiority of talent, or for preference, or for any consideration whatever; but I claim to be exactly equal, not only to the illustrious personage who has just spoken, and whom their lordships had heard with so much pleasure, but also with the Prince of Wales, if he were present, and acting as a peer of Parliament. “I know,” said the noble and learned lord, “of no difference between peers of Parliament, considered in their legislative character;

and I do think that the lowest in rank in the house, is equal to the highest, while we are debating. If rank or talent created an inequality in our rights to speak in this house, the illustrious personage who has just spoken would have a higher right than I pretend to have ; but I do claim, for my humble self, an equality with every Prince of the blood, or any other who has a seat in this house, to speak my sentiments with uncontrolled freedom.

Lord Grenville then, without adverting to the point of order, proceeded ; and, in very strong language, made several observations against the slave trade in general : but as the present bill went only to a limitation of it in some measure, he confined himself to that subject, which, through the medium of the Sierra Leone company, was calculated to introduce civilization among the natives of Africa.

Lord Thurlow replied, and maintained that the bill was intended to benefit the Sierra Leone company, at the expense of the West India merchants. He treated that company in very severe terms, as having done, under the mask of piety and humanity, those things of which other persons would have been ashamed. On a division, the bill was lost by a majority of seven votes.

Thus terminated the attempt to check the trade ; and with it, the session came to a close—when the King, in proroguing Parliament, spoke these cheering words :

“ It may be permitted us to hope that the same protecting Providence will continue to us its guidance through the remainder of this eventful contest, and will conduct it finally to such an issue, as shall transmit

to future ages a memorable example of the instability of all power founded on injustice, usurpation, and impiety; and shall prove the impossibility of ultimately dissolving the connection between public prosperity and public virtue."

This was an obvious allusion to the perturbed state of France, where, not long after, Buonaparte, like Cromwell, at the head of his soldiery, abolished the Directory, and assumed the reins of power, as chief of the consular government; his two nominal coadjutors being the Abbe Sieyes and Roger Ducos.

On the 24th of September, this year, after an unusually short vacation, the British Parliament reassembled for the avowed purpose of making such military preparations as might be called for at that eventful crisis.

During this interval, the navy of Great Britain lost one of its oldest and brightest ornaments, in the death of Admiral Earl Howe, at the age of seventy-four.

The professional history of this great man forms too large a portion of the national annals to need a recital here. George the Second did him no more than justice, when, on his lordship's introduction at the levee, after the defeat of the French fleet under Conflans, in the bay of Quiberon, he said, "Your life, my lord, has been one continued series of services to your country."

In the unfortunate attack upon St. Cas, near St. Malo, in 1758, Commodore Howe displayed equal skill, courage, and humanity. Before the embarkation of the English troops could be completed, the French poured down in such numbers, that a dreadful carnage ensued. At this juncture, in the midst of a fire that staggered the bravest seamen, the commodore ordered his barge to be

rowed in shore, to encourage all that were engaged in the service, and to bring off as many men as the boat would carry. The rest of the fleet followed the example, and thus, by his exertions, at least seven hundred men were preserved from the fire of the enemy, and the fury of the waves.

Prince Edward, afterwards Duke of York, was then serving under Commodore Howe, as a midshipman; and when his Royal Highness, in 1762, hoisted his flag on board the *Amelia*, as second in command, under Sir Edward Hawke, Lord Howe became captain of that ship.

The advancement of the noble admiral was in proportion to his merits; and Lord Hawke, when some reflection was made in the House of Peers on the employment of his friend, paid him this compliment:—"It was I that advised his Majesty to make the promotion. I have tried my Lord Howe on many important occasions; he never asked me *how* he was to execute any service, but always went and performed it."

The last public act of a life employed against the enemies of his country, was exerted to compose its internal dissensions. It was the lot of Earl Howe to restore the fleet, which he had conducted with glory on the sea, to order and loyalty in the harbour.

Of the calm intrepidity of the noble admiral in all circumstances of personal danger, the following is an instance. Being once obliged to come to an anchor in a very unfavourable situation, he retired to rest. In the middle of the night, he was roused from his sleep by the first lieutenant.

"What is the matter?" exclaimed the admiral. The lieutenant, with a wistful look, said, "My lord, the anchor's come home."

“Is that all?” replied his lordship, “I don’t know what could keep any thing out in such a night as this.”

It is not to be inferred from this, that the great commander was stoically indifferent to the difficulties that surrounded him. The principle on which he acted in such cases, was to keep up the spirits of his officers and people, as the surest means of preservation, by infusing general confidence among them.

When commander-in-chief on the North American station, during the revolutionary war, the noble admiral insisted upon the pursers, clerks, and even the chaplains, taking their respective turns in keeping watch. This decree proved very disagreeable to those gentlemen; who pleaded strenuously, but in vain, for an exemption, on the ground of prescriptive right and professional privilege. Lord Howe’s secretary and chaplain, Mr. O’Beirne, afterwards bishop of Meath in Ireland, undertook to remonstrate with the commander on behalf of his reverend brethren. The admiral heard him with great patience, and then, in his usual dry manner, said, “What, cannot ye watch, as well as pray?”

CHAPTER VIII.

A. D. 1800 TO 1801.

ON the 2d of April, 1800, Lord Auckland, after expatiating very forcibly and eloquently upon the enormous increase of the vice of adultery, and the perversion as well as abuse of many divorce bills which had passed the legislature of this country, moved to bring in a bill to prevent any person divorced for adultery from intermarrying with the other guilty party. The bill was accordingly brought in; and upon the order of the day for the second reading on the 4th of the same month, the **DUKE OF CLARENCE** rose, to give it his decided opposition. His Royal Highness admitted that adultery was an enormous crime; that it struck at the root of domestic happiness; and was destructive of the best interests of society. Happy should he be, therefore, in supporting any measure that had a tendency to check the increase of adultery; but highly as he thought of the talents of the noble lord who had introduced the measure, and much as he admired his motives in bringing it forward, he felt it his duty to oppose the bill, as being more likely to increase than to prevent the crime. When he considered the consequences that would follow the operation of such a bill, he could not but regard it as fatal to those, who from their amiableness were entitled to compassion and liberality. His main objection to the bill was that it made no provision for the unfortunate

female. It on the contrary took away from her almost the only remedy that the practice of the legislature now allowed in respect to divorce—the hopes of salving her reputation, by marrying the man who had beguiled her. Let their lordships recollect, that as divorce bills were only attainable by persons of property and distinction, the wives of such men, when fallen, were in a manner expelled from society, and deprived of the means of living. They could neither work nor beg, and therefore must abandon themselves to prostitution. It was a painful fact, that among the divorce bills which had come before them within a few years, several had been petitioned for by persons of high rank in life. Let their lordships make the case their own, and consider whether they thought their ladies, if it should be their misfortune to be complainants, ought to be reduced from splendour to misery, as they might be by the operation of this bill. However deeply the prevalence of adultery was to be deplored, surely all commiseration for the unfortunate was not to be sacrificed to their lordships' zeal. It had been said, that many divorces originated in a contract between the offending parties to intermarry, in the event of a dissolution of their present union. He doubted the fact, and rather thought that the virtue of the woman had in most cases been undermined by the artifices of the seducer. There might possibly be a solitary instance of collusion between the parties; but of the frequency of the occurrence, there must be stronger evidence than bare assertion, before he could give it credit. He could easily believe that divorces by the legislature increased the number of adulteries. When a divorce was obtained by an act, as the practice now stood, it was open to the man, who had been the offender,

to make the best amends he could by marrying the repudiated victim. But looking at the case as a man of the world, the Duke said, he could not shut his eyes to the fact, that the husband, by suing for and obtaining pecuniary compensation, was not to be considered as acting a honourable part, if he put the money into his own pocket, instead of returning it for the benefit of his desolated wife. His Royal Highness then compared the general effect of punishments with the offences to which they were applied : and he contended that in proportion as the judgment was severe, the crime rather increased than diminished. To prove the inefficacy of punishing desertion capitally, he adduced this instance. During the war which terminated in 1763, the French government issued an edict subjecting every deserter to be shot ; yet it was notorious, that after the promulgation of this decree, desertions multiplied more than ever. The Duke imputed many of the late divorces to the accidental effect of the war, which separated officers of the army and navy a long time from their families.

It was fair to conclude, therefore, that the return of peace would restore domestic order, and abate the evil. His Royal Highness then moved, that the said bill be read a second time this day three months. On putting the question, the motion was negatived ; and the second reading having passed, the bill was ordered to be committed on the 16th of May.

On that day, the Duke of Clarence again rose to deliver his sentiments, in opposition to the noble lords who supported the bill, particularly the bishop of Rochester, Dr. Horsley. His Royal Highness, in discussing the scriptural argument, owned that an adulteress,

by the Mosaic law, was to be stoned to death ; but he endeavoured to shew that there was a Jewish bill of divorce, at later periods, greatly superior to the present Christian one, the demerits of which he was pointing out. The Jewish bill was always drawn by a notary, and ran thus at the conclusion : “ Now I divorce thee, dismiss thee, and cast thee out, that thou mayest be free, and have the rule of thyself, to depart, and to marry with any other man whom thou wilt ; and let no man be refused by thee for me, from this day forward, for ever ! Thus be thou lawful for any man, and this shall be to thee from me a bill of separation, a bill of divorce, and a letter of dismissal, according to the law of Moses and Israel.” By the law of Moses and Israel, therefore, women were allowed to marry again ; and as no exclusion is made of the seducer, it is evident that the partner in his guilt might become his wife. Nay, about the time of our Saviour, it was a custom among the Roman, as well as the Jewish women, to divorce their husbands, and marry again at pleasure. The bill tendered by the Roman ladies was called the “ letter of forsaking ;” and to make it clear that the same practice existed among the Jews, our Saviour says, (Mark x. 12.) “ If a woman shall put away her husband, and marry another, she committeth adultery.”

The Jews were very scrupulous in bringing proofs of infidelity before a judge ; for, by so doing, they said, the honour of one or both parties would be hazarded. It was enough for the judge to see the special points upon which the husband grounded his plea of divorce, and then the magistrate gave judgment, that he simply divorced the wife, but without a particular charge, and allowed both to marry again with whom they should see good.

The Duke then pointed out the customs of the Greeks and Romans in cases of divorce, which were, he said, in a great measure taken from the laws of the Jews.

The Athenians admitted no divorcement without proof of the cause before the judges ; and that people, like the Jews, deemed it a matter of delicacy and hazard to both parties. As an instance of this, when Hippocrete, the wife of Alcibiades, quitted his house on account of his libertinism, and appeared before the archon to claim a legal separation, the husband rushed into court, and carried her home, where she remained till her death. .

The Duke next noticed the brutal custom of the Grecian and Roman husbands in lending out their wives for hire, favour, or caprice. Yet we are told that, by one of Solon's laws, the man who surprised his wife in adultery might put her to death. Thus it appears, that while the husband was at liberty to prostitute his partner to all his connexions, the beautiful but enslaved victim was to suffer death, if, after the prostitution of her person to please her tyrant lord, she should do the same to please herself. We have it upon record, that Socrates lent his wife to Alcibiades ; and this custom, it is pretended, was introduced by Lycurgus, to prevent the fatal effects of jealousy. A very certain preventive, it must be confessed ! But, said his Royal Highness, if this bill should pass into a law, the legalized prostitution of English wives by divorcement from their careless husbands, may act in a certain degree upon the female character here, as it did on the ladies of Greece and Italy, by the men lending them out, to prevent jealousy.

In the one case, by this bill, the husband would be enabled to prostitute his wife for ever ; while his treatment

is, perhaps, the fatal cause of her eternal ruin. In the other case, the husband prostituted his wife, too, by law ; but then he took the degraded object to his bed until he became jealous, when he cured himself of his passion by surrendering her to another of his friends.

By the bill now before the house, perpetual prostitution follows seduction. By the Greek and Roman law, seduction was unnecessary. The fiat of the husband made the prostitute; while by this bill the cruelty and incontinence of the husband will effect the same disgrace. In Greece, adulteries not founded upon the consent of all parties, were punished by penalties. As to the Romans, they seldom assigned any reason for their bills of divorcement. Witness the conduct of Paulus Emilius to his first wife Papyria, whom he divorced without a cause, although she had brought him several children ; among whom were the illustrious Scipio and Fabius Maximus. But with regard to Roman divorces in general, some light may be thrown upon the facility with which they were obtained, by what Plutarch relates of a man who, on being asked why he put away his wife, answered by holding up his shoe : “ Is not this shoe handsome ? Is not this shoe new ? Yet no one knows where it pinches, but he that wears it.” By the law of Romulus, the husband had not only the command of his wife, but also in some cases the power of life and death over her. This was insufferable tyranny, but not greater than that of the present bill, if it should pass into a law.

His Royal Highness having traced the punishment for adultery among the Jews, Greeks, and Romans, called the attention of their lordships to the following passage of Montesquieu, “ You may make laws to correct the manners of women, and to limit their luxury ; but who

knows that, hereby, they may not lose that peculiar taste which is the source of riches to a nation, and that politeness which makes the country attractive to strangers?"

Thus, then, let us lay no more ignominious restraints upon women, and particularly such an arbitrary one as the present bill would impose upon the sex from whom we derive much of the solace and comfort of life. Let us not assemble here, to forge the chains of prostitution for the degradation of the women of England! Rather let us adopt the Christian charity of a right reverend prelate towards the female sinner, as delivered some years ago in a sermon preached for the benefit of the Magdalen Institution. The prelate alluded to was the bishop of Rochester, Dr. Horsley, who, after stating the indelible disgrace which follows seduction, observes, "It is one great defect, that by the consent of the world, (for the thing stands upon no other ground,) the whole infamy is made to light upon one party only, in the crime of the two; and the man, who for the most part is the author, not the mere accomplice, of the woman's guilt, and for that reason is the greater delinquent, is left unpunished and uncensured. This mode of partial punishment affords not to the weaker sex the protection, which in justice and sound policy is their due, against the arts of the seducer. The Jewish law set an example of a better policy, and more equal justice, when, in the case of adultery, it condemned both parties to an equal punishment; which indeed was nothing less than death.

"A worse evil, a mischief, attending the salutary severity, upon the whole, of our dealing with the lapsed female, is this,—that it proves an obstacle almost insur-

mountable to her return into the paths of virtue and sobriety, from which she hath once deviated. The first thing that happens, upon the detection of her shame is, that she is abandoned by her friends, in resentment of the disgrace she hath brought upon her family; she is driven from the shelter of her father's house; she finds no refuge in the arms of her seducer; his sated passion loathes the charms he hath enjoyed; she gains admittance at no hospitable door; she is cast a wanderer upon the streets, without a lodging, without food! In this forlorn and hopeless situation, suicide or prostitution is the alternative to which she is reduced. Thus, the very possibility of repentance is almost cut off; unless it be such repentance as may be exercised by the terrified sinner in her last agonies, perishing in the open streets, under the merciless pelting of the elements, of cold and hunger, and a broken heart. And yet the youth, the inexperience, the gentle manners once, of many of these miserable victims of man's seduction, plead hard for mercy, if mercy might be consistent with the treasure we so sternly guard."

His reason for quoting this passage, was, his Royal Highness said, to ascertain the opinions of the right reverend prelate on the condition of the seducer and the seduced, and to oppose those opinions that had been recently used. On these arguments he would now repose for support, and he hoped that their due application would be made in behalf of the unhappy female, who might be beguiled by the arts of a designing villain. But the case of the unfortunate woman who fell under these seducements was an object of humane consideration. The laws already punished her delinquency by a divorce, the deprivation of her dower, and by the disgrace in-

separably attached to such conduct. His Royal Highness admitted that the laws ought to be vindicatory on these occasions, but their punishments, he maintained, should be equitable, which was not the case in the present instance; and, therefore, he gave the bill his decided negative. Notwithstanding this, the bill passed, and was sent down to the lower house, where it experienced a different fate, being rejected by a considerable majority.

The day preceding this debate was rendered remarkable by two providential escapes of the King: the first, in the morning, at a review of the guards in Hyde Park, when a shot was fired, which struck a young gentleman very near his Majesty; and the second, in the evening, at Drury Lane theatre, when a man in the pit discharged a pistol at the royal box, but without doing any injury. On investigation, it clearly appeared that the former occurrence was purely accidental; but the coincidence of two such circumstances in one day, made a strong impression upon the public mind. The Duke of Clarence was not present in the Park, but he was at the theatre, and took an active part in the examination of the culprit, and conducted him to the prison in Cold Bath Fields. The unfortunate man deported himself decorously after his apprehension, and solemnly professed that he had no intention to destroy the King; but only to get rid of a life which was a burden to himself. He had been with the Duke of York on the continent, and was recognized by his Royal Highness, the moment he saw him, as having been one of his orderly dragoons. It is barely sufficient to say, that at the ensuing sessions, the prisoner, whose name was James Hatfield, was acquitted, on the ground of insanity; in consequence of which, he

was sent to the hospital of Bedlam, where he was sentenced to remain during his Majesty's pleasure.

On the morning after these deliverances, an affecting scene took place at Buckingham House, when the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of York, Clarence, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Prince William breakfasted with their Majesties and the Princesses. At one o'clock the King held a levee, which was most numerous attended by the dignitaries of the church, the foreign ambassadors, ministers of state, the lord mayor, and nearly the whole of the members of both houses of parliament, who came on purpose to congratulate his Majesty on his miraculous escape.

The fortitude and presence of mind of the King in both instances commanded universal admiration. When the accident happened in the Park, his Majesty rode up to the wounded gentleman, took his address, and directed him to be conveyed to his residence at Chelsea, where Surgeon Nixon extracted the ball, which had passed through one thigh into the other. The patient soon recovered, and obtained a commission in the twenty-fifth light dragoons then in India, where he rose to the rank of Captain, and was present at most of the battles and sieges under General Lord Lake, to whose care he was recommended by the King.

When the atrocious attempt was made to destroy his Majesty at the theatre, the Queen had not entered the royal box ; and on her appearance, the King with uncommon presence of mind and tenderness, waved his hand, as a signal for her to keep back, saying at the same time, " They are letting off squibs ; and, perhaps, there may be more."

Notwithstanding this, and the shock produced by such

a circumstance, the King would not leave the theatre till the performances were all concluded. When the Royal Family returned to Buckingham House, supper was brought up, but no one sat down. Her Majesty drank some wine and water, and then retired. The Princess Amelia, who had been ill nearly two years, fainted, on entering her chamber; and the fits continued so long, that her restoration to life appeared doubtful. His Majesty, who, during the whole evening was perfectly cool and composed, on hearing of the situation of the Princess, went and attended her until recollection returned, when she threw herself into his arms, and said, "She would be comforted." His Majesty on leaving the chamber of Amelia, went to Elizabeth, Augusta, and Mary, all of whom were in a condition nearly the same as their sister: but a flow of tears brought them relief, in which state they passed the night. During this confusion, the Princess Sophia, who had for some time been indisposed, repeatedly called to her attendant to know the cause of the alarm. She was told that the Princess Amelia had returned from the theatre ill. The King in passing said, "Sophia, good night;" and retired to rest. This was about one in the morning, and on taking leave of the gentleman who waited upon him, his Majesty observed, "I am going to bed, with the confidence that I shall sleep soundly; and my prayer is, that the unhappy man who aimed at my life may rest as quietly as I shall."

Amidst the agitation which the murderous attack upon the venerable Monarch excited, it was gratifying to witness the loyal feeling that burst forth from all parts of the theatre in execrations on the assassin, and a demand for his seizure and appearance on the stage.

The audience, on receiving the assurance that he was in safe custody, were satisfied ; but some thought, and not without reason, that the manager might have selected a more fitting person to address the house, in the presence of their Majesties and the Princesses, than Mrs. Jordan !

This circumstance is not mentioned here by way of reflecting upon the actress, whose conduct, under the peculiar circumstances in which she was placed, entitled her to respect : but when nearly all the female branches of the Royal Family were assembled together in public view, and with their illustrious parents were objects of more than ordinary sympathy ; the conspicuous appearance of a person situated as Mrs. Jordan was, gave to the spectacle an effect that ought to have been avoided.

The following particulars of Mrs. Jordan, extracted from a Memoir of her, by Mr. Boaden, will, no doubt, be pleasing to the reader. After an account of a comedy in which she had performed, the biographer says :—

“ It was about this piece, I remember, we had been speaking, when she told me she had another East Indian offered at her shrine, which she would trouble me to read. I did so ; and we talked the piece over at her town residence in Somerset Street, Portman Square. She had not told me who was the author of the play. But there was that in it which merited consideration. I gave her my opinion frankly, and pointed out the indécorum of the interest : however, though not a moral play, it was written evidently by a man of talent ; and, as a benefit piece, preferable to an old one. Mrs. Jordan, here, in confidence, informed me that the Duke had taken the

trouble to read it, at her desire also ; and that we agreed most decisively in our opinions.

“ She was in charming spirits, I remember, that morning, and occasionally ran over the strings of her guitar. Her young family were playing about us, and the present Colonel George Fitzclarence, then a child, amused me much, with his spirit and strength ; he attacked me, as his mother told me, his fine tempered father was accustomed to permit him to do himself. He certainly was an infant Hercules.”

From what another dramatic historian relates, it appears, that Mrs. Jordan was sufficiently proud of her high connexion. On one occasion, about this time, having shewn some discontent at the rehearsal of a new play, Mr. Wroughton, the manager, could not help noticing her behaviour with some asperity. “ Why,” said he to the heroine, “ you are, *grand*, madam, quite the *duchess* again.”

“ Very likely,” replied Mrs. Jordan, “ for you are not the first person, this very day, who has condescended to honour me ironically with the title.” Then, with all her characteristic humour, she said, that, having that morning discharged her Irish cook for impertinence, when she paid her the wages due to her, the indignant daughter of St. Patrick shewed her a shilling, and, banging it upon the table, exclaimed, “ Arrah, now, honey ! with this thirteener, won’t I sit in the gallery ? and won’t your royal grace give me a curt’sey ? and won’t I give your highness a howl and a hiss into the bargain !”

This anecdote will remind the reader of some of the pleasantries of Nell Gwyn. At one time, when this “ wild and indiscreet creature,” as Burnet calls her, was in a

tradesman's shop in the city, a crowd outside assailed her servant with all the opprobrious epithets the vocabulary of the vulgar tongue could furnish.

Enraged at the insult, the man began to lay about him with his whip; but the odds were against him, and he was not only pummelled, but covered with mud. His mistress, when the fray ended, demanded the cause. "Why," said the servant, "they called your ladyship a courtesan." "Poh, you fool," said Nell, "if you engage in brawls for no other reason, you will have fighting enough; for it is what every body knows." "Do they?" replied John; "but they shall not call me a courtesan's coachman, for all that."

It is recorded to the honour of the favourite of Charles the Second, that she never abused her influence to any base purpose; and that, in the most licentious of all courts, she proved faithful to her royal protector.

She also paid respect to religion, by attending public worship with such regularity, that Dr. Tenison, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, then vicar of St. Martin in the Fields, gave her due praise in a funeral sermon. When questioned on the subject by Queen Mary, the honest divine told her Majesty, he wished all the ladies of her court were as good as Eleanor Gwyn.

Of the late Mrs. Jordan, it is but justice to say, that she brought up a numerous family with exemplary propriety; and that, in all respects, she made it her study as far as possible to prevent reproach.

If charity be a mantle sufficient to cover numerous frailties, the following anecdote will shew that Mrs. Jordan was not deficient in that virtue.

During her stay at Chester, where she had been performing, her washerwoman, a widow with three small

children, was, by a merciless creditor, thrown into prison ; a small debt of about forty shillings having been increased, by law expenees, to eight pounds. When Mrs. Jordan heard of the circumstance, she sent for the attorney, paid him his demand, and said, " You lawyers are certainly infernal spirits, allowed on earth to make poor mortals miserable." The man pocketed the affront without saying a word, and departed.

The same afternoon, the poor woman was liberated ; and, as Mrs. Jordan was taking her usual walk, the widow, with her children, followed her, and, just as she had taken shelter from a shower under a porch, dropped on her knees, exclaiming, " God bless you for ever, madam, you have saved me and my poor babes from ruin !" The children added to the affecting scene, by crying ; and Mrs. Jordan, stooping down to kiss them, slipped a pound-note into the mother's hand, saying, " There, there, now it's all over ; go, my good woman, and God bless you ! don't say another word.

It happened that another person had taken shelter under the porch, and witnessed the whole transaction. He now came forward, and, holding out his hand, said, " Lady, pardon the freedom of a stranger ; but, would to the Lord, the world were all like thee ! " *

The figure of this man bespoke his calling : his countenance was pale ; and a suit of sable, rather the worse for wear, covered his tall and spare person. Mrs. Jordan soon developed his character and profession, and replied, " No, I won't shake hands with you."—" Why ? "—" Because you are a Methodist preacher ; and when you know who I am, you will send me to the devil."—" The Lord forbid ! I am, as you say, a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who tells us to clothe the naked,

feed the hungry, and relieve the distressed; and do you think I can behold a sister fulfil the commands of my Master without feeling that spiritual attachment, which leads me to break through worldly customs, and offer you the hand of friendship and brotherly love?"—"Well, well, you are a good old soul, I dare say; but I—I don't like fanatics, and you'll not like me when I tell you who I am."—"I hope I shall."—"Well, then, I tell you I am a player." The preacher sighed: "Yes, I am a player, and you must have heard of me. My name is Jordan." After a short pause, he again extended his hand, with a complaisant countenance, and said, "The Lord bless thee, whoever thou art. His goodness is unlimited. He has bestowed on thee a large portion of his spirit; and, as to thy calling, if thy soul upbraid thee not, the Lord forbid that I should."

Thus reconciled, and the rain having abated, they left the porch together; the offer of his arm was accepted; and the votary of Thalia, and the disciple of Wesley, proceeded to the door of Mrs. Jordan's residence. At parting, they shook hands, and the preacher said, "Fare thee well, sister; I know not what the principles of people of thy calling may be, thou art the first I ever conversed with; but if their benevolent practices equal thine, I hope and trust, at the great day, the Almighty will say to each—'Thy sins are forgiven thee.'"

During this year, the Duke of Clarence lost two of the oldest of his professional friends.

The first was Admiral John Macbride, who commanded the *Bienfaisant*, and captured the Spanish ship of war, to which Admiral Rodney gave the name of Prince William, in whose presence she had the honour to be taken. Previous to this, Captain Macbride distinguished himself

on many occasions, particularly in compelling the Danes to give up the unfortunate Caroline Matilda, whom he conveyed to Stadt. In the American war, he commanded in the North Seas, and captured two large ships after a smart action; his account of which, contained the whimsical expression, that "he winged the gentry;" alluding to his favourite sport of cock fighting.

The honourable Samuel Barrington, who died at the age of seventy-one, was another brave commander, who enjoyed, as he well deserved, the personal esteem of the Duke of Clarence. The life of this veteran formed a singular exception to the common mode of rising in the navy. Although born of a noble family, he ascended, by slow degrees in the service. Instead of soliciting honours or emoluments, he waited till they were offered him, and sometimes he even declined what others as ardently sought.

In 1768, he was appointed to the *Venus* frigate, for the purpose of instructing the late Duke of Cumberland in nautical science. When the rupture took place between Great Britain and Spain, respecting the Falkland Islands, Captain Barrington commanded the *Albion*, of seventy-four guns. It being difficult to obtain seamen, the captain had recourse to a humorous expedient for manning his ship. He offered a bounty for all lamp-lighters, and persons of other trades that required alertness; by which means, he soon procured such a motley crew, that they went by the name of Barrington's blackguards. He soon, however, altered the description of them, by strict discipline and good treatment. The Admiral's services in the West Indies entitled him to the gratitude of his country; yet he never obtained any distinction, separate from his profession.

BOOK THE THIRD.

CHAPTER I.

A. D. 1801 TO 1803.

WE now enter upon the first year of the most eventful era in the history of Britain, if not of mankind. On the first of January, 1801, the union of England and Ireland commenced, when a council assembled, at which the King presided, and the Heir-apparent, with all the Royal Dukes, took the prescribed oaths. A new great seal was delivered to the Lord Chancellor, and the old one defaced. The altered standard was hoisted at the Tower, and the guns both there and in the Park announced to the public the important political change that had taken place.

Notwithstanding these formalities, the country never stood in a more alarming position than at this very period. After a contest of eight years, the nation saw fresh enemies rising on every side, among whom were some of those powers that had received ample subsidies from Britain, and professed the warmest zeal for the cause in which she was engaged. The emperor Paul, being disappointed in his expectation of being put in possession of Malta, issued an order for laying an embargo on all British vessels in Russian ports.

The violent and capricious monarch next proceeded to another measure of hostility; by reviving the northern confederacy, consisting of Russia, Sweden, and Denmark, the object of which was to establish by force a new code of maritime laws, directly inimical to this country.

In consequence of these outrages, the British Government adopted the retaliatory measure of ordering the seizure of all vessels belonging to any of the confederate powers, then in the ports of this country.

Though the king of Prussia did not become an avowed party in this convention, he acceded to it privately, and on particular conditions. In the month of March, the Prussians took possession of Hanover, and at the same time the Danish troops entered Hamburg and Lubeck, for the purpose of putting a stop to British commerce.

The most active exertions were now made, to meet the threatened danger, and to break by one great blow the formidable combination of the maritime states; who, on their part, were not less energetic in their preparations for present defence and future annoyance.

In the midst of these alarms, Parliament assembled, and on the 2d of February the King delivered a speech from the throne, in which, after noticing the coalition of the northern states against this country, his Majesty said, "In such a situation, I could not hesitate as to the conduct it became me to pursue. I have taken the earliest measures to repel the aggressions of this hostile confederacy, and to support those principles which are essential to the maintenance of our naval strength, grounded on the principle of public law so long established and recognized in Europe."

The debates on the address were animated, and brought the old question of the right of searching neutral ships under discussion; but with little information or argument that could be called new. The minister asked, "If we were to permit the navy of our enemy to be supplied and recruited? to suffer blockaded ports to be furnished with stores and provisions? and allow neutral nations, by hoisting a flag on a sloop or a fishing-boat, to convey the treasures of South America to Spain, or the naval stores of the Baltic to Brest or Toulon?" This reasoning was not to be answered, and the Parliament confirmed it by great majorities.

While Britain thus stood alone, to contend with the world in arms; other circumstances arose, to agitate the nation, and embarrass the government. Previous to the King's meeting his Parliament, a communication was made to his Majesty by Mr. Pitt, stating the prevailing sentiments of the majority in the Cabinet, to be in favour of admitting Catholics and Dissenters to public offices, and of Catholics to Parliament, with a view to the tranquillity and improvement of Ireland, and to the general interest of the united kingdom.

His Majesty in reply declined "discussing any proposition tending, as he thought, to destroy the groundwork of our happy constitution; and much more so, that now mentioned, which would be no less than the complete overthrow of the whole fabric.'

The minister having intimated the necessity of his resignation, in the event of his Majesty's opposition to the proposed measure, the King answered—"Though I do not pretend to have the power of changing Mr. Pitt's opinion, when thus unfortunately fixed, yet I shall hope his sense of duty will prevent his retiring from his

present situation to the end of my life—for I can, with great truth, assert, that I shall, from public and private considerations, feel great regret, if I shall ever find myself obliged, at any time, from a sense of religious and political duty, to yield to his entreaties of retiring from his seat at the board of the Treasury.”

It was impossible, however, to shake the resolution of Mr. Pitt; and, on the 5th of February, his resignation was accepted, but with a condition, that he and his colleagues should continue to act till the new arrangement was formed.

This affair operated so strongly upon the royal mind, that a fever came on, from which the patient did not recover till the 12th of March; and, on the 17th, Mr. Addington was sworn into office, as first lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Hawkesbury succeeded Lord Grenville, as secretary for foreign affairs; Earl St. Vincent succeeded Earl Spencer at the Admiralty board; Lord Eldon became Chancellor, in the room of Lord Loughborough; Lords Hobart and Pelham were made secretaries of state, instead of the Duke of Portland and Mr. Dundas; Mr. Yorke took the post of Mr. Windham, as secretary at war; the Earl of Hardwicke accepted the situation of viceroy of Ireland; and Lord Lewisham was put at the head of the board of control.

While this cabinet was forming, an expedition, commanded by Admiral Sir Hyde Parker and Lord Nelson, sailed from Yarmouth Roads for the Baltic. To force an entrance through the Sound, appeared an enterprise scarcely practicable; so formidable were the defences which the Danes, and their allied neighbours, had made for the security of the approaches. Nelson, however,

was not to be deterred by obstacles. Born to encounter dangers, and to conquer them, he volunteered his service in directing the attack, and succeeded.

On the 16th of April, Earl St. Vincent, as first lord of the Admiralty, rose for the purpose of moving the thanks of the house to those noble, gallant, and distinguished commanders, who had so signally fought, and so decidedly obtained the victory over the Danish fleet before Copenhagen. He would move, too, with no less warmth, the thanks of the house to the officers, marines, and sailors, who had with so much courage sustained the engagement, and achieved the complete defeat of the enemy's fleet. Much as might be said for the glory and honour of the British arms, he must add, that, in his opinion, no one victory, through the whole course of our naval successes, was, in itself, of greater importance, nor likely to be attended with more important and extensive benefit to the British empire. He then moved the thanks of the house to Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, for the victory obtained over the Danish fleet on the 2nd of April; which was unanimously agreed to. The noble Earl then moved thanks to Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson; to Rear-Admiral Graves; to the honourable Colonel Stewart, of the 49th regiment of foot; together with the officers, marines, and sailors serving on board the British fleet.

The Duke of Clarence said, it might appear presumptuous in him to rise, and add his approbation to what had already been so forcibly expressed. He complimented Lord Nelson highly on his courage and intrepidity, which fortune seemed to back in every enterprise in which he was engaged. His Royal Highness also took that opportunity of acknowledging his own personal

obligation, as a Prince of the blood, to the gallant commanders, and to the whole fleet, for the accomplishment of a victory, which, probably, in its effects, would restore the possessions on the Continent to his Family, together with the peace and security of the British empire.

The battle of Copenhagen was followed by an armistice with Denmark and Sweden; while the sudden death of the Emperor Paul dissolved the confederacy, and changed the face of things in Europe.

But we must here leave the field of war and foreign politics, for the more tranquil seat of domestic legislation.

In this session of Parliament, two peculiar cases of divorce came under consideration in the House of Lords, on both of which the Duke of Clarence delivered his sentiments.

On the 19th of March, the house being in a committee on Taylor's divorce bill, the Marquis of Buckingham proposed the introduction of a clause providing that the adulteress should be interdicted from marrying the adulterer. The clause was supported by several peers, on account of the atrocity of the case, and the fact that the seducer was a clergyman.

The motion, however, was resisted by the Duke of Clarence, who said he had on a former occasion opposed a bill, which contained this as a general provision, which was now made particular; and applied, in his opinion, with injustice to the unfortunate woman who was implicated in the question. He would now oppose it much more, because the injustice was much greater. He saw nothing in the case which warranted such a provision. The offending parties, he knew nothing of; neither did he know any thing of Mr. Taylor the petitioner; but on revising the petition, His Royal Highness

said, he did not see that he called for such a restriction; he called but for redress, by a dissolution of the marriage; and with forgiveness and Christian charity, he left the unfortunate partner of his bosom, once, no doubt, dear to it, to seek for refuge in the arms of her seducer, as the only means by which she could be saved from utter ruin.

His Royal Highness, on the impolicy of the provision, maintained that the cause of religion, of morals, and of all the social virtues, was better promoted by such a permission, than by a prohibition. He remarked that one of the evils resulting from such a restriction would be, that women, so restricted, must be driven to despair, as few or none would wish to marry them after their infidelity. So situated, he said, they would form themselves into corps, and, from their seductive graces and accomplishments, prove thorns in the sides of those who were their former female acquaintances; but who, under such disgrace, would avoid their society, from a sense of virtue and decency.

He did not think such absurd regulations tended to promote or secure the public morals. He asked whether the unfortunate female was always the party in fault, and whether there was nothing to be ascribed to the conduct of the husband, who drove a woman into the arms of a seducer? He ascribed much to public example, whence purity of morals took its rise; and he was happy in expressing his sentiments on the pattern set by the first magistrate of the state, because he felt such sentiments to be perfectly just.

The house divided on the question; which was carried, and the report ordered—but the royal Duke declared his intention to oppose the bill altogether.

On the 20th of May, the house went into a committee on the bill to dissolve the marriage of Jane Campbell with Edward Addison her husband, and to enable her to marry again.

The first clause being read, the Duke of Clarence said he should simply move that the clause be expunged. Mrs. Addison had made out so strong a case, that if any criminal conduct of a husband towards a wife could amount to a justification of her obtaining a divorce from him at the hands of the legislature, this was the very case; but when he considered the novelty of the legislature granting a divorce to a wife, on complaint of adultery on the part of her husband, the infinite mischiefs it might lead to by encouraging the foulest collusion between married couples, to obtain an effectual discharge from their marriage vows and connexions, and the effect the practice would have on the morals of society, he must resist the present application. Petitions for divorce had so multiplied, that it was absolutely necessary to check them; and nothing could do so more effectually than to guard against the facility of its being obtained. For the reasons he had stated, he should move that the clause be expunged.

After some debate, His Royal Highness withdrew the motion, and the bill was passed.

On the 2nd of July, Parliament was prorogued by commission, when the Lord Chancellor, in the royal name, said, "The brilliant and repeated successes of his Majesty's arms by sea and land, important as they are in their immediate consequences, are not less satisfactory to his Majesty's mind, as affording fresh and decisive proofs of that vigorous exertion, undaunted valour, and steady perseverance, which distinguish the national cha-

racter; and on which the chief reliance must be placed, for respect abroad, and for confidence and security at home. Events so honourable to the British name, derive at the present moment, peculiar value, in his Majesty's estimation, from their tendency to facilitate the attainment of the great object of his unceasing solicitude—the restoration of peace on fair and adequate terms.”

This pacific intimation gave general satisfaction; but though it was soon known that negotiations were commenced, things remained in a state of suspense till the first of October, when the preliminaries of peace were signed at London, on the part of the French by M. Otto, and on that of Britain, by Lord Hawkesbury.

The King, who had been passing the summer at Weymouth, was unapprised of what had occurred, when he left that place for Windsor. At Andover he was met by a messenger, sent by the cabinet to announce the important intelligence. The despatches were delivered whilst his Majesty was standing at the window of the inn, conversing with the Earl of Cardigan and two other noblemen. Having opened the letter, the King appeared so much surprised, that the noblemen were on the point of withdrawing, but were desired to stop by his Majesty, who said, “I have received extraordinary news, but it is no secret. Preliminaries of peace are signed with France. I knew nothing of it whatever; but since it is made, I sincerely wish it may be lasting.”

On the 29th of October, parliament met, when the King concluded his speech in these words:—

“It is my first wish, and most fervent prayer, that my people may experience the reward they have so well merited—in a full enjoyment of the blessings of peace in a progressive increase of the national commerce,

credit, and resources ; and, above all, in the undisturbed possession of their religion, laws, and liberties, under the safeguard and protection of that constitution, which it has been the great object of all our efforts to preserve, and which it is our most sacred duty to transmit unimpaired to our descendants.”

On the third of November, the preliminary treaty became the subject of debate on a motion in the House of Lords for an address to the King, when a decided opposition was made to the terms of the peace, by Lord Grenville, and the other members of the late administration. They were replied to by the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Bedford, Earl St. Vincent, and particularly by the Duke of Clarence.

His Royal Highness contended that we had every security which could be wished from a government of the nature of the French republic. In corroborating his several assertions, he took an able review of the rise and progress of the war, and bestowed the warmest eulogiums on our fleets and armies. It having been insinuated by the enemies of England, that whatever gallantry might be attributable to our seamen, our soldiers were inferior to the French ; he denied this illiberal slander, maintaining that wherever they had encountered the enemy, the proofs of their prowess were incontrovertible.

If we recurred to the campaign of 1793, when the British troops were equal in glory and success to their renowned ancestors ; or that of 1794, which was alike brilliant ; if we contemplated the affairs of India, in every engagement they acquired honour and distinction :—but the facts were too memorable to require detail ; he should only then advert at large to our successes in the East, which had been begun by the Marquis Wellesley, who had

overthrown the tyrant Tippoo. These plans, so happily executed, were likely to have received some interruption by the projects of Buonaparte, who, it is well known, had forty thousand of the best French troops in the expedition to Egypt. This measure, grand in its conception, and immense in its execution, menaced our power and territories in the East, besides endangering the Turkish government: it was the revival of the plan of Louis XIV., and which, by the spirit and enterprise of the first consul, enforced by such a numerous body of chosen troops, inured to every hardship of the field, appeared at first very formidable. The resistance which these invaders experienced from a handful of soldiers, under Sir Sidney Smith, long before the landing of that army which afterwards became in their turn the conquerors of Egypt, could not be too highly extolled. It was not, however, till the 21st of March in the present year, that Egypt had an opportunity of throwing off the French yoke, by the triumph of the British arms, which, engaged with the republicans, proved superior to them in courage and capacity. The glorious achievements of the 42d regiment, who destroyed Buonaparte's invincibles, could not but be remembered by England with pride and exultation. We were inferior far in numbers to the enemy; and the victory was gained by courage, ability, and military address.

Having surveyed the meritorious conduct of the army, his Royal Highness enumerated the exploits of the navy, which, on account of his own close connexion and professional partiality, he glanced at in a very cursory manner. The inestimable services of the British seamen were beyond all praise. Our transactions on the ocean, by which we had raised the character and name of our country to the greatest and most enviable eminence, were too

numerous to particularize, but they would remain to the latest posterity glorious in our naval history.

The Duke made some remarks on the relative situation of France and England, so far as regarded the objects of the war. Finding that each, from its vast conquests, was at last placed in that peculiar predicament in which no blow could be given with effect, he had no hesitation in saying, that the best plan that could be adopted was an adjustment of differences, and a reconciliation of parties. France had completely overcome every contending power on the continent, and therefore could have no new conquests in which to employ her numerous armies. Great Britain, so far as regarded maritime affairs, was in a similar state. The two great powers of Europe, therefore, having no other objects of peculiar attack, except the invasion of each other's domestic territories, were reduced to the necessity either of protracting an unavailing war, with the accumulation of debt and its concomitant calamities, or negotiating a peace. Nor was it a common peace, but a reconciliation of differences between the two first nations of the world, and he maintained that it was both a safe and honourable peace. Ministers had deserved the warmest thanks for the judicious selection of the particular settlements which they had retained. Ceylon was of the greatest importance to our East India possessions: it was an island whose productions were highly valuable to our commerce, consequently to our revenue; its spiceries and its harbours were extremely convenient to our merchandise, and the addition to our East India territories was inestimable. To specify minutely the advantages derivable from the possession of Trinidad would engross too much of their lordships' time; but its qualities, as an island, were

known, and well appreciated, as they deserved to be. The Cape of Good Hope being no place of trade, had not the commercial advantages attributed to its situation, and therefore its surrender was no considerable loss.

His Royal Highness concluded with observing, that the interest of France was its continental conquests; of England, its commerce: the former was a military government; the strength of the latter was its navy. In our view of aggrandizement, we placed the cultivation of the arts of peace, and the nurseries of seamen; in theirs was the preservation of that warlike system which had overcome every opposition on the continent. France was by necessity impelled to act upon that principle; and wisdom would induce England to adopt a plan diametrically opposite. Peace, from every view of the subject, must be very acceptable to both; and doubly so to the philanthropist, because it afforded both nations an opportunity of repairing the ravages of war. He hoped, and believed, it would be permanent, and therefore sincerely supported the motion.

Lord Nelson made a short speech to the same effect, and, as much stress had been laid on the importance of Malta, he gave it as his opinion, that the possession of the island was of no consequence, either in war or peace. The Cape also would be equally detrimental, if retained by us; and though it certainly ought not to be given up to the French, the cession would be better than the retention. His lordship said, he believed, that the peace would prove the best that existing circumstances admitted.

If such were the real sentiments of the naval hero, which may well be doubted, they underwent a material alteration within a very little time. After the renewal of hostilities, Nelson, in writing to Sir Alexander Ball,

governor of Malta, says, "I have received your sketch of the views of the French in the Mediterranean, on the whole outline of which I perfectly agree with you; and on the smaller part, there are only shades of difference. I know the importance of Malta: but I fancy I also know how far its importance extends; on this point we may differ, but we both agree that it never must be even risked putting into the hands of France. Algiers will be French, in one year after peace—you see it; and a man may run and read, that such is the plan of Buonaparte."—This prediction was not fulfilled during the reign of Napoleon, but it has since been verified; and what may be the consequences of a French establishment in the region of the ancient Numidia, must be left to time for a full development.

Though the preliminaries of peace were signed on the first of October, it was not till the 27th of March in the following year, that the final settlement of the definitive treaty took place at Amiens.

The Duke of Clarence seldom bore any part in political discussions, during the brief and imbecile administration of Mr. Addington; but we find him on some occasions giving his support to the measures of Government, particularly those of his noble friend, Lord St. Vincent, for effecting reforms in the naval arsenals. His Royal Highness also appeared before the committee of the House of Commons, to give the weight of his testimony in favour of vaccine inoculation, the efficacy of which had been experienced in his family. Most of his time was now spent at Bushy House; the grounds and gardens round which, were laid out with great taste and judgment. Every thing was conducted upon a principle of utility and economy; yet, while extravagance was carefully shunned,

and order was strictly observed, there appeared in the mansion, and all about it, a union of elegance and comfort.

On the last day of August, Parliament was prorogued; but was convened again on the 23d of November, when the speech delivered from the throne too clearly indicated a want of confidence in the permanency of that peace which had been so lately ratified, and of the stability of which such great boasting had been made.

“In my intercourse with foreign powers,” said his Majesty, “I have been actuated by a sincere disposition for the maintenance of peace. It is nevertheless impossible for me to lose sight of that established and wise system of policy, by which the interests of other states are connected with our own; and I cannot, therefore, be indifferent to any material change in their relative condition and strength. My conduct will be invariably regulated by a due consideration of the actual situation of Europe, and by a watchful solicitude for the permanent welfare of my people.”

This language was no obscure presage of war, and as such it was considered by the members of both houses who spoke on the proposed address. The symptoms of hostility increased, when resolutions were made for augmenting the forces by sea and land. In this feverish state, things continued till the 15th of March, 1803, when the King sent a message to parliament, stating, that in consequence of the preparations carrying on in the ports of France and Holland, he had thought it necessary to call out and assemble the militia of the United Kingdom

On the 16th of May, another message announced the recall of his majesty's minister from Paris, and the departure of the French ambassador from London.

On the 23d, the order of the day for taking into consideration this message being read, Lord Pelham rose to move an address expressive of the indignation of the house of peers at the conduct of the French government, with full assurance of their support in the threatened struggle with so ambitious an enemy.

The noble secretary stated the proceedings with regard to Malta, the demand of the First Consul for a restraint upon the press in this country, and for the expulsion of the emigrants. He also noticed the provocations we had received from Sebastiani's mission to Egypt, and the avowed design of Buonaparte upon that country. Malta, his lordship considered, was our best security against the ambition of the French, and therefore, under existing circumstances, ministers had resolved upon its retention.

The Duke of Cumberland went over the several topics that had been discussed by Lord Pelham, and particularly dwelt upon the attack of Buonaparte on the freedom of the British press. His Royal Highness hoped we should remember the nature of that constitution which had been handed down to us by our ancestors, and that we would transmit it unimpaired to posterity. If the ambition of Buonaparte was not resisted, our nobility would be annihilated, our altars overturned, and the glory of Britain be extinguished for ever. On the contrary, if we remained true to ourselves, we should continue as we had been, the most independent nation in the world. Our foe has had the presumption to boast, said the royal orator, that Britain could not single-handed cope with France. He was, however, proud to say, that this country had never yet wanted an arm to check injustice, and counteract ambition.

The Duke of Clarence observed, that this was one of the most important questions that had ever been discussed in a British Parliament. It amounted to this, whether England should maintain her ancient rights and independence, or bow the neck to the yoke of a foreign power. Immediately after signing the treaty of peace, part of Italy was made an integral part of France; the independence of Switzerland was violated; and Holland was at that moment overrun by French troops, and held in complete subjugation by that ambitious government. Still greater was what had been avowed with respect to Egypt. The chief consul made no secret of his intention, that, sooner or later, that province must fall within his power. In support of this, his Royal Highness referred to the infamous report of Sebastiani, who had calumniated the British consul, and the British commander-in-chief in Egypt. This was also proved by the conversation of the Chief Consul with Lord Whitworth, in which Buonaparte flatly contradicted the declaration of his own minister, Talleyrand, who had given out that Sebastiani's expedition was merely commercial.

Besides these just grounds of complaint, they had dared to demand that we should change the fundamental laws of our constitution—they sought to fetter the liberty of the British press, under whose freedom that of the country had equally flourished. With respect to the alleged infraction of the treaty on our part, Malta was the only thing they ventured to urge; but as no guarantee, from the intervening circumstances, had been found, according to the stipulation in the treaty, that "it should not be ceded till it was guaranteed," the refusal to give up that island could not be considered as any violation of the spirit of the treaty. On this

question his Royal Highness trusted that the house would be unanimous—that they would exert every nerve—and that if war must be entered into, we should pursue it with ardour and concord.

In conclusion, his Royal Highness hoped that the result would be glorious for this country, and fortunate for the happiness of the world. After several peers had spoken, the proposed address was carried without a division.

On the 2nd of June, Earl Fitzwilliam moved several resolutions, tending to criminate ministers for their conduct in making peace with France, and in the negotiation. Though in the division these were negatived, his lordship, four days after, brought forward some additional resolutions, which were in substance, “that no adequate representations had been made of the aggression of France; that the conduct of ministers had been of the utmost injury to the nation; that they were unworthy of confidence; and that his Majesty should be petitioned for their removal.”

The Duke of Clarence, with uncommon warmth, defended ministers. He took a general review of the grounds on which the resolutions rested; condemned the conduct of the French government; and admitted that he had from the beginning only considered the peace as an experiment, though he never thought it would be lasting, and was considerably disappointed when he heard that it was signed. Notwithstanding this, he had no doubt that ministers had done the best for the country, and therefore he would support them; if for no other reason, yet that their predecessors might be kept out, where improper management and inability rendered their re-admission much to be deprecated.

“I wish,” concluded the royal Duke, “to see this country exerting her vast resources, to convince the mighty hero, Buonaparte, that we are able to contend single-handed against France and all her accessions. I wish to see Great Britain chastise France. It is not the first time that she has so done : and if the war be conducted with vigour and wisdom, I think it cannot last long.”

On Saturday the 18th, Lord Hobart presented a message from the King, intimating the necessity of arming the country. Upon his lordship’s motion, the message was ordered to be taken into consideration on Monday.

Accordingly, on that day, Lord Hobart brought forward a plan for the more effectual defence of the nation. His lordship expressed his conviction that there could be no difference of opinion on the necessity of the measure, and therefore he proceeded to state the course intended to be adopted. It was necessary, he said, that we should resort to more extraordinary means than those calculated to resist any attack upon our shores ; though, on viewing the population and resources of the country, he felt confident there was nothing to apprehend. In the late war, we had a militia force of 114,500 men, in England, Scotland, and Ireland. At present we had 72,900. He proposed an addition of 40,000 for England, and 10,000 for Ireland ; to be raised from the age of eighteen to forty-five ; and appropriated to the defence of every part of the United Kingdom. By this means, we might have a large and well-trained disposable force on any emergency. His lordship concluded with moving an address on the message.

The Duke of Clarence thought the plan infinitely less objectionable than the one which was supposed to be in

agitation. He entered upon a statement of the real causes of the war, and contended that they had no reference to Malta, but arose out of the repeated insults and aggressions of the French government; concluding with an historic review of the different attempts at invasion, from the time of Queen Elizabeth to the present period, in order to shew the futility of such enterprises, but inferring from thence the necessity of having an adequate force for offensive operations.

For this reason, his Royal Highness was of opinion that the plan now proposed did not go far enough, and that a more efficient force ought to be raised, and which the population of the kingdom could well supply.

The Duke of Cumberland supported the reasoning of his brother; and recommended that the number of men, instead of being fifty thousand, should be doubled. His proposition, however, was withdrawn, and the Army of Reserve Bill, as it was called, passed through both houses, and obtained the royal assent.

On the 12th of August, the session closed with a speech from the throne, at the conclusion of which his Majesty said:—

“ I rely with confidence, that, under the divine protection, the exertions of my brave and loyal subjects will prove to the enemy, and to the world, that an attempt to subvert the independence, or impair the power, of the United Kingdom, will terminate in the disgrace and ruin of those by whom it may be made; and that my people will find an ample reward for all their sacrifices, in an undisturbed enjoyment of that freedom and security, which, by their patriotism and their valour, they will have preserved to themselves and their posterity.”

CHAPTER II.

A.D. 1803 to 1805.

NEVER, since the reign of Elizabeth, did Britain exhibit a more glorious spectacle than on the morning of Wednesday, the 26th of October, 1803; when the King reviewed the London district of volunteers in Hyde Park.

As soon as light appeared, the greater part of the population was on foot, impelled by curiosity to witness the brilliant scene. At seven o'clock, several of the corps entered the Park; and by eight, all stood assembled in close column of companies, each on its proper ground. Soon after nine, a signal-gun announced the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief, who entered from Hyde Park Corner, with the Duke of Cambridge and their aides-de-camp. The Duke of Cumberland, in the uniform of his regiment of light dragoons, soon followed. It was not quite ten, when his Majesty, in his private carriage, attended by the Duke of Kent in his uniform as general, and the Duke of Clarence in the uniform of the Teddington Association, entered the Park at Kensington gate.

Here the King alighted from his carriage, and mounted his charger. His Majesty then rode forward, preceded by the life guards, and the royal grooms, with four led horses, richly caparisoned. His Majesty was accompanied by the Princes, and followed by the Queen, with the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, in one open landau,

and Sophia and Mary in another. Opposite the entrance to Kensington Gardens, his Majesty was met by the Duke of York, and the whole of the staff. As the procession advanced, it was joined by Monsieur, the Prince de Condé, the Duke de Bourbon, and the Duke de Berri, all on horseback, and in the ancient French uniforms. Several of the noblesse, and General Dumourier, were in their train. The cavalcade, which was closed by a party of the 13th light dragoons, passed rapidly along the carriage road from Kensington Gate as far as the rear of the barracks, where it turned, and crossed to the right of the line by the bottom of the Serpentine river.

As soon as his Majesty entered the Park, a royal salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the artillery company. A second cannon announced his Majesty's arrival at the centre of the line. The officers saluted, the corps presented arms, and the bands played "God save the King." Immediately afterwards, a third cannon was fired, when the corps shouldered, and then supported arms. His Majesty now proceeded to the right of the line, each corps carrying arms as he passed. The grandest part of the spectacle was when the King descended the hill to repass, at the bottom of the Serpentine, to the corps on the left, stationed along the footway to Kensington Gardens, with their front towards the water. By this time, the fog, which had hitherto dimmed the splendour of the scene, was dispelled in some degree, so that the whole procession, as well as the military line, became conspicuous. The ground in the rear of the royal train was covered with elegantly dressed females, and other spectators. His Majesty having passed to the extremity of the line, returned again by the Serpentine, and took his position in the centre. Then, at signal, three vol-

leys were fired by battalions from the centre to the flanks, and, at another signal, three loud and universal cheers were given, while the drums beat, and the music played the national tune of "God save the King." At the firing of the ninth gun, the whole of the corps wheeled round by divisions, and, having passed his Majesty in order, proceeded to their respective quarters.

The review being over by half past one, the royal party, with the foreign princes and generals, returned from the centre of the park to Piccadilly gate, and thence to Buckingham House, followed all the way by an immense crowd. Being no longer restrained by the military employed in keeping the lines, the people ran in all directions to have a view of the Sovereign. The air resounded with shouts wherever he passed, and his Majesty shewed his sense of their loyal affection, by pulling off his hat, and other marks of feeling. Among the persons who attracted particular notice in the Park, was the Mameluke chief, Elfi Bey. He was in a carriage accompanied by an interpreter and his aid-de-camp, with a train of servants dressed in scarlet and gold. The whole number of spectators, on this occasion, could not have been less than two hundred thousand. Many came to town from a distance of one hundred miles, to enjoy the exhilarating sight. The volunteers, reviewed this day, consisted of more than twelve thousand.

On Friday, a similar exhibition took place in the review of the Westminster, Lambeth, and Southwark volunteers. So great was the anxiety in some corps, that the majority of the men never laid down during the preceding night, the whole of which was spent in preparation. At six o'clock the men were mustered at their respective drill-grounds; but so great a fog came

on, that at half-past seven not a single object could be seen in the Park; and severai of the corps would have passed the gate, had they not been stopped by a party of the life guards stationed to guard the entrance. The eager expectation which ushered in the morning, now changed to apprehension. The houses, scaffolds, and vehicles prepared for the accommodation of spectators, dropped their prices, and would have fallen lower, had not the fog fortunately begun to clear up about half-past eight; when the day assumed a more cheerful aspect, and the people again assembled in still greater numbers than on Wednesday.

The same regulations to maintain order were observed, as those which were adopted on that day. The Park was shut up all night, and the gates were not opened for the admission of the populace until eight o'clock, at which time the corps began to arrive. From that hour until ten, the crowd at Piccadilly Gate was so great, that the pressure became alarming; and many persons, it was feared, would be crushed or trampled to death, in the immense tide which endeavoured to force through the side passages, the only ones for admission. Under these circumstances, the police officers ventured to open the main gates, and by that means prevented the dreaded evil. As each corps entered, the guards shouldered arms; and as the colours passed, arms were presented. The King arrived at Knightsbridge barracks, from Kew, about ten, accompanied by her Majesty and the Princesses. Soon after, the royal party entered the Park, preceded by a troop of horse, and attended by the Dukes of York, Clarence, and Cumberland. The fog now began to disperse, and the sight became truly magnificent, as the cavalcade could be seen passing the lines, the whole of

which was formed into companies, to the extent of three quarters of a mile. The evolutions were as on the former day, and did equal credit to the volunteers and their officers. The multitude was beyond conception great, particularly females; and it seemed as if the whole non-military population of the metropolis had come forward in honour of their defenders.

On the following day, the Commander-in-chief issued general orders, saying that he had received the King's command to convey to the several volunteer and associated corps, which were reviewed in Hyde Park on the 26th and 28th instant, his Majesty's highest approbation of their appearance, which equalled his utmost expectation.

The corps reviewed the second day were more than fourteen thousand men. All Britain displayed the same spirit; and the number, thus voluntarily enrolled for the national defence, fell little short of half a million.

It was remarked as very extraordinary, that at neither of these splendid and interesting occasions did the Prince of Wales make his appearance. The reason, if it may be called such, was afterwards explained, in the publication of a correspondence that had taken place during the summer, between his Royal Highness and Mr. Addington, and next between the Prince, the King, and the Duke of York.

The Prince demanded, as of right, and a sense of duty, a high military command, suited to his station; but the King refused his consent, and said, "that His Royal Highness would, if the enemy landed, have an opportunity of showing his zeal at the head of his regiment." This answer, so far from satisfying, displeased the Prince to such a degree, that he renewed his complaint, and his

claim, in terms to which the King would not reply. His Royal Highness then wrote to his brother, the Commander-in-chief, but with no better effect.

When Lord Nelson was informed of this misunderstanding in the royal family, he, with that honest frankness which distinguished his character, vindicated the Sovereign, and observed, that the Prince would have acted wisely in declining, instead of seeking, that high command to which he aspired; and which, as involving a heavy responsibility, might have been attended with serious consequences. The noble admiral was then in the Mediterranean, watching the French fleet at Toulon. From that station, on the 15th of October, he wrote as follows to his illustrious friend, the Duke of Clarence:

“I am absolutely beginning this letter in a fever of the mind. It is as thick as buttermilk, and blowing a Levanter, and the *Narcissus* has just spoke me, to say she boarded a vessel, and they understood that the men had seen, a few days before, twelve sail of ships of war off Minorca. It was in the dusk, and he did not know which way they were steering. This is the whole story, and a lame one. On the 8th, the French fleet, as counted by Captain Boyle, was eight sail of the line, four frigates, and nine corvettes. On the 9th, it blew a tremendous storm at north-west, which lasted till the 12th; since which time, although the *Seahorse* and *Renown* are endeavouring to reconnoitre, it is so thick, that I do not think they can either see into Toulon, or find me if they do. Your Royal Highness will readily imagine my feelings, although I cannot bring my mind to believe they are actually out; but to miss them—God forbid! They are my superiors in numbers, but in every thing else, I believe, I have the happiness of commanding the

finest squadron in the world. If I should miss these fellows, my heart would break.—Oct. 16. The Seahorse spoke me in the night; and made known that the enemy were in the same state as when last reconnoitred, on the 8th. I believe this was the only time in my life that I was glad to hear the French were in port.”

On the 22d of November the King met his parliament, and said, “In the prosecution of the contest in which we are engaged, it shall be, as it has ever been, my first object to execute as becomes me, the great trust committed to my charge.

“Embarked with my brave and loyal people in one common cause, it is my fixed determination, if the occasion should arise, to share their exertions and their dangers, in the defence of our constitution, our religion, our laws, and independence. To the activity and valour of my fleets and armies, to the zeal and unconquerable spirit of my faithful subjects, I confide the honour of my crown, and all those valuable interests which are involved in the issue of this momentous contest.

“Actuated by these sentiments, and humbly imploring the blessings of Divine Providence, I look forward with a firm conviction, that if, contrary to all just expectation, the enemy should elude the vigilance of my numerous fleets and armies, and attempt to execute their presumptuous threat of invading our coasts, the consequences will be to them discomfiture, confusion, and disgrace,—and that our’s will not only be the glory of surmounting present difficulties, and repelling immediate danger, but the solid and permanent advantage of fixing the safety and independence of the kingdom, on the basis of acknowledged strength—the result of its own tried energy and re-

The first act of hostility committed by Buonaparte against the King of Great Britain, was the seizure of Hanover; though a distinct state, and always acknowledged as such in every former war. The Duke of Cambridge had just time to effect his escape, when the French army, under Mortier, entered, and took possession of the electorate; where the conduct of these marauders plainly shewed what England had to expect, in the event of a landing on her shores.

The following is but a faint outline of the wretched state of Hanover at this time. It is taken from several private letters, written from thence to a correspondent in London.

“Ever since the conquest, the electorate has been a scene of pillage and butchery; which is said to yield only to the state of Switzerland in the spring of 1798. The French soldiers have the most unbounded indulgence of their ruling passions, of rapine, cruelty, and lust. In the city of Hanover, and even in the public streets, women of the highest rank have been violated in the presence of their families. The invaders made no distinction between parties; but treated republicans as they did royalists. The Baron de K., a well-known partisan of the French philosophy and politics, went to Mortier, and claimed his protection as an admirer of the revolution. But he found no more favour from the Aga of Sultan Buonaparte’s janisaries, than the most virtuous nobleman in Hanover. The general said, “All Jacobinism is out of fashion now;—go about your business?”

“The political enthusiasts and philosophers of Göttingen, notwithstanding their attachment to the doctrines of equality and perfectibility, were treated in the same

manner. What happens in the great towns, and what befalls persons of rank, are, of course, better known than the calamities of the body of the people. Every village, however, exhibits the same scenes in miniature. The peasants, who have more spirit, patriotism, and loyalty than their superiors, have already, in several parts of the country, been driven to insurrection; many villages, have, in consequence, been burnt to the ground, and two districts have been delivered over to all the horrors of military execution. The whole electorate, which, for its natural advantages was one of the most prosperous countries in the empire, will, in a few months, be laid waste."

The only objects for whom Mortier felt, or pretended to feel, any respect, were the disbanded soldiers of the Hanoverian army. In his letter to Napoleon, he said, "General Walmoden signed the capitulation with an afflicted heart: and it is difficult to paint the situation of the fine regiment of the King of England's guards at dismounting." Another Frenchman, who witnessed the surrender of the Hanoverian cavalry at Altenburg, says, "Some very affecting scenes occurred on this occasion, from the attachment of the soldiers to their faithful companions. One very old dragoon, in particular, and who had the reputation of being the bravest man in the regiment, bathed his horse's head with tears, exclaiming, "My poor friend, I am no longer permitted to take care of thee! Thou wilt die, for want of having Hermann by thy side!"

It was now very evident, that whatever might be the personal merits of Mr. Addington, or his qualifications for the chair of the House of Commons, he possessed not the comprehensive talent necessary to conduct the

affairs of a great nation, especially in time of war. Finding his situation untenable, he therefore gave in his resignation ; and on the 7th of May, 1804, Mr. Pitt once more became prime minister.

On the 30th of the same month, Mr. Wilberforce renewed his motion for the abolition of the slave trade, which was supported by Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, and carried, on a division ; the numbers being, for the abolition of the traffic, one hundred and twenty-four, to forty-nine, voices. In consequence of this decision, a bill was brought in for limiting the latest period at which ships were allowed to clear out from an English port, on this trade, to the first of October in the present year. The debates on the bill were long and animated ; but the third reading was carried on the 28th of June by a majority of sixty-nine to thirty-three votes.

The bill was sent up to the Lords the same day ; when the Duke of Clarence asserted, that he could shew, from the evidence of ocular demonstration, that the trade was not deserving of the imputations cast upon it ; and he was prepared to prove, that the abolition of it would be productive of extreme danger. On the 3d of July, when the second reading of the bill was moved, Lord Hawkesbury's amendment, that it be read this day three months, was carried without a division.

At the close of this session, an addition to the civil list was made, in consequence of an annual deficiency therein, by which a considerable debt had been incurred. In the course of the debate, some observations were made upon two advances, of fifteen thousand pounds each, to the Duke of Clarence, to be repaid at seven hundred and fifty pounds every quarter ; but it did not appear that any instalment had been made. On the 31st, parliament was prorogued.

The elevation of Napoleon to the Imperial dignity in the month of May, this year, was not an event to excite surprise, among those who had paid the least attention to his character and conduct. But every one, whether of the number of his admirers or enemies, wondered at his meanness, in endeavouring to procure from Louis the Eighteenth, a renunciation of all right and title to the crown of France. The answer of the royal exile was as dignified as the proposal was base. "I cannot pretend to know," said Louis, "what may be the intentions of the Almighty respecting my race and myself; but I am well aware of the obligations imposed upon me by the rank to which he was pleased I should be born. As a Christian, I shall continue to fulfil these obligations to my last breath. As a descendant of St. Louis, I shall endeavour to imitate his example, by respecting myself—even in captivity and chains. As successor of Francis the First, I shall at least aspire to say with him,—We have lost every thing but our honour."

In this noble sentiment and resolution, the king was joined by all the princes of the house of Bourbon. Napoleon, instead of paying the tribute of respect which such exalted principles deserved, next set his engines at work to cut off the king and the whole family. His first design failed; but he unfortunately succeeded in seizing the Duke d'Enghien on neutral ground, and caused him to be butchered at midnight.

Yet, as if the possession of the sovereign power had not been simply enough of itself to gratify the ambition of the assassin, he called in religion, to sanction his usurpation; and the head of the Catholic church degraded his function, by becoming a principal in the sacrilegious farce of the Imperial coronation.

On the 4th of October, 1804, died suddenly, in the county of Berwick, Adam Lord Duncan. He was born at Dundee in 1731, and, being a younger son, entered early into the navy, in which service he found a steady patron in Commodore, afterwards Lord Keppel, with whom he sailed on the expedition to the Havannah, where Captain Duncan commanded the boats.

In 1779, he was placed in a situation of peculiar delicacy, by being a member of the different courts-martial held on his friend Admiral Keppel, and Sir Hugh Palliser. No greater proof could be given of his moderation and integrity, than that, at a time when party rage ran high, his conduct was never subjected to the slightest reproach, or the charge of partiality.

At the conclusion of the same year, he commanded the *Monarch*, under Admiral Rodney. Though his ship was neither coppered, nor remarkable for sailing, Captain Duncan found means to get foremost of all the fleet in the action with *Langara*; and, on being warned of the danger of attacking alone three of the enemy's squadron, which were at no great distance, he coolly replied, "I wish to be among them." Accordingly, he soon came alongside of a Spanish vessel, of equal force with the *Monarch*; while the other two, of the same magnitude, lay within musket-shot to leeward. A spirited action began, and continued for some time; during which the *Monarch* was exposed to the fire of her three adversaries: that, however, from the two leeward ships suddenly ceased, and they left their companion to shift for herself. She soon after struck, and proved to be the *San Augustin*, of seventy guns; but, on boarding the prize, she was found in such a disabled state, that it was deemed advisable to abandon her: the two frigates

were pursued and taken, by some of the other English ships.

In 1789, Captain Duncan was promoted to the rank of Rear-admiral; and in 1795, he obtained the command of the North Sea fleet. The rest of his professional history has already been narrated.

Two circumstances may, however, here be added, illustrative of the character of this great man. On the cessation of the battle off Camperdown, Admiral Duncan assembled the crew of the *Venerable*, and, kneeling down, with his own voice returned thanks to the Almighty for the victory which had crowned his arms.

When the Dutch commander, De Winter, came on board the *Venerable*, he was received by the victor with all the refined courtesy which distinguishes modern European warfare; and soon after, the two admirals sat down together to a game at picquet.

Lord Duncan's figure was tall and majestic, being above six feet high. His countenance was expressive of magnanimity, joined with a great degree of candour and gentleness. His piety was sincere, and without ostentation; and his social virtues made him universally beloved in the circle of his private friends. It was observed, that Admiral De Winter and Admiral Duncan very much resembled each other in height and features.

CHAPTER III.

A. D. 1805 TO 1807.

BUONAPARTE having gained the highest seat of ambition, announced his elevation, with a proposal for peace, to the King of Great Britain, in a letter dated the 2d of January, 1805. The mode of conveyance was no less curious than the composition itself. The Tickler gun-brig being off Boulogne on the 7th, fell in with a fishing-vessel which had on board a French officer, who told the commander that he had a despatch from Talleyrand to Lord Harrowby, and which had been sent express from Paris, with orders for its being forwarded without delay to some of the British cruisers, and that the bearer should accompany it. Upon this, the brig ran into the Downs, and put the officer on board the flag-ship, from whence the letter was sent express to the foreign office the same night.

The letter, as afterwards made public by Talleyrand, was as follows :—

“ To the King of Great Britain.

“ SIR, MY BROTHER,

“ Called to the throne of France by Providence, and by the suffrages of the people and the army, my first sentiment is a wish for peace. France and England abuse their prosperity. They may contend for ages : but do their governments well fulfil the most sacred of their duties? and will not so much blood, shed uselessly, and without a view to any end, accuse

them in their own consciences? I consider it as no disgrace to make the first step. I have, I hope, sufficiently proved to the world, that I fear none of the chances of war: it, besides, presents nothing that I need to fear. Peace is the wish of my heart; but war has never been contrary to my glory. I conjure your Majesty not to deny yourself the happiness of giving peace to the world, nor to leave that sweet satisfaction to your children; for, in fine, there never was a more fortunate opportunity, nor a moment more favourable to silence all the passions, and listen only to the sentiments of humanity and reason.

“This moment once lost, what end can be assigned to a war, which all my efforts will not be able to terminate? Your Majesty has gained more within ten years, both in territory and riches, than the whole extent of Europe. Your nation is at the highest point of prosperity, what can it hope from war? To form a coalition of some powers on the Continent? The Continent will remain tranquil; a coalition can only increase the preponderance and continental greatness of France.—To renew internal troubles? The times are no longer the same.—To destroy our finances? Finances, founded on a flourishing culture, can never be destroyed.—To take from France her colonies? Colonies to France are only a secondary object; and does not your Majesty already possess more than you know how to preserve?—If your Majesty would but reflect; you must perceive that the war is without an object, without any presumable result to yourself. Alas! what a melancholy prospect to cause two nations to fight for the sake of fighting! The world is sufficiently large for our two nations to live in it: and reason sufficiently powerful, to discover means of reconciling every thing, when the wished-for reconciliation exists on both sides. I have, however, fulfilled a sacred duty, and one which is precious to my heart. I trust your Majesty will believe in the sincerity of my sentiments, and my wish to give you every proof of it.

(Signed)

“NAPOLEON.

This extraordinary epistle received the following answer, addressed to Talleyrand :

“ His Majesty has received the letter, which has been addressed to him by the head of the French government, dated the 2nd of the present month. There is no object which his Majesty has more at heart, than to avail himself of the first opportunity to procure again to his subjects the advantages of a peace, founded on a basis which may not be incompatible with the permanent security and essential interests of his states. His Majesty is persuaded that this end can only be attained by arrangements, which may at the same time provide for the future safety and tranquillity of Europe, and prevent the recurrence of the dangers and calamities in which it is involved.

“ Conformably to this sentiment, his Majesty feels that it is impossible for him to answer more particularly to the overture that has been made him, until he shall have had time to communicate with the powers of the Continent, with whom he is engaged in confidential connexions and relations, and particularly with the Emperor of Russia, who has given the strongest proofs of the wisdom and elevation of the sentiments with which he is animated, and the lively interest which he takes in the safety and independence of Europe.

(Signed) “ MULGRAVE.”

At the very time that Buonaparte was making this ridiculous parade of affected moderation, his plans were organizing for extending his sovereignty over all Europe. He had already shewn the sincerity of his pretensions to the character of a pacificator, by his conduct to Holland and Spain, both which powers he had bound to his chariot-wheels, and dragged into a ruinous war.

Such was the state of things on the 14th of January, when the Imperial Parliament was opened by the King in person, who, after noticing the Spanish declaration

of war, and the recent overture of the French government, said, "In considering the great efforts and sacrifices which the nature of the contest requires, it is a peculiar satisfaction to me, to observe the many proofs of the internal wealth and prosperity of the country."

His Majesty having retired, the Right Honourable Henry Addington, now created Viscount Sidmouth, was introduced, and took his seat on the ministerial bench, as lord president of the council. On the other side of the house were the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of Clarence and Sussex, with a great number of the leading members of the opposition party.

The address, which, as usual, was a mere echo of the speech, having been moved and seconded, the Earl of Carlisle said he would not anticipate any discussion on the Spanish war, till the house should be in possession of the necessary documents to form a judgment of its policy and justice.

Lord Hawkesbury replied, that he had no doubt it would appear, not only that the laws of nations had been strictly observed by us, but that nothing had taken place derogatory to the British character.

The Duke of Clarence then rose, and said, that though he heartily concurred in the address, yet he could not help expressing some apprehension, that, from the mode in which the noble secretary of state had mentioned the war with Spain, there was a great deal in that business which would require explanation.

This alluded to the circumstance of our taking three out of four Spanish ships, laden with treasure from South America, on the 5th of October, and previous to the declaration of war. The fourth ship blew up, and all but forty-six persons on board perished. To justify

this act, it was stated that the Spaniards had an armament then ready to put to sea at Ferrol ; and that the arrival of the treasure ships was only waited for, to commence hostilities. This, however, was far from being considered as a satisfactory plea ; and the legality of the caption was called in question, not only abroad, but in parliament.

In the House of Lords, the seizure of the Spanish ships, without giving specific notice, was severely censured by Earl Spencer and Lord Grenville, as a species of piracy. The Duke of Clarence joined in this view of the case ; but Lord Sidmouth vindicated the measure, as being strictly consonant with the law of nations, and the principles of common justice.

On the 8th of March, Lord King, after taking an extensive survey of the different plans of defence that had been resorted to within the last two years, moved, that a committee be appointed to revise the acts passed in the two last sessions for the defence of the country, and to consider of such further measures as might be necessary for that purpose.

Earl Camden and Lord Hawkesbury resisted the motion, which was vigorously supported by the Duke of Clarence, and several of his noble friends, who mustered very strong in opposition to ministers, though without effect.

On the 25th of May, another attack was made by Lord Darnley, in a motion for the appointment of a select committee to take under consideration the state of the navy, and the conduct of the admiralty board. Lord Melville entered into a long defence of his administration at the head of the marine department, and particularly justified the building and repairing ships in private

dock-yards ; by which measure, the service, he said, had greatly profited. His lordship was answered by his predecessor, Earl St. Vincent, who said he was convinced that the vessels built in the king's yards were far superior to those built by contract. He thought the navy board was highly reprehensible, and totally inefficient. There was not, he observed, one man at that board adequate to the duties of it. His lordship concluded by declaring, that he should think it an injustice done to himself, if the committee was not appointed.

The Duke of Clarence spoke also in favour of the motion. His Royal Highness said, he himself had been witness to the grossest and most flagitious acts of misconduct in many persons, from the highest down to the lowest in office, relative to the management in the dock-yards. As to the Sixth Report of the Committee of Naval Inquiry, unless his Majesty's ministers thought proper to take some step relative to it, he pledged himself to bring the subject under the consideration of the house immediately after the commencement of the next session.

Several speeches having been made on both sides, the motion was negatived by eighty-eight to thirty-three voices.

On the 25th of August, the royal family sustained a loss in the death of Prince William-Henry, Duke of Gloucester. His Royal Highness was born on the 25th of November, 1743 ; and married, September 6th, 1766, Maria, Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, by whom he had three children : Sophia Maria, born May 29, 1773 ; Caroline Augusta Maria, born June 24, 1774, and died, March 14, 1775 ; and William Frederick, born at Rome, January 15, 1776.

The deceased Duke was a most affectionate father, and

a kind master; nor did he, in any one instance, omit to shew the sincerest attachment to his brother and sovereign. Aloof from all the sordid occurrences of life, and unsullied by political faction, he kept the even tenor of his way; benevolent without ostentation, and dignified without pride. The remains of the royal Duke were privately interred in the family vault at Windsor on the fourth of September; but none of his illustrious relatives, except his son, attended the funeral.

About this time, the Duke of Clarence took under his powerful patronage that extraordinary youth, Master Betty, commonly called the "Young Roscius," whose interests his Royal Highness promoted so vigorously, that the boy was soon enabled to realize a fortune, and retire from the stage before maturity.

The death of Lord Nelson, in the moment of victory, on the 21st of October, off Cape Trafalgar, had an effect similar to that of the immortal Wolfe on the heights of Abraham; both heroes expiring with the satisfaction of knowing that their course had terminated in glory.

How the Duke of Clarence felt on the present occasion, will be seen in the following letter to Admiral Collingwood:

St. James's, November 9, 1805.

"DEAR SIR,

"As a brother Admiral, and as a sincere well-wisher to my King and country, permit me to congratulate you on the most important victory gained on the 21st of October, by your gallant self, and the brave officers, seamen, and royal marines, under your command, and formerly under my lamented and invaluable friend, Lord Nelson. The country laments the hero, and you and I feel the loss of our departed friend. Five-and-twenty years have I lived on the most intimate terms with

Nelson, and must ever, both publicly and privately, regret his loss.

“Earl St. Vincent and Lord Nelson, both in the hour of victory, accepted from me a sword; and I hope you will now confer on me the same pleasure. I have accordingly sent a sword, with which I trust you will accept my sincere wishes for your future welfare. I must request you will let me have the details of the death of our departed friend; and I ever remain, dear Sir,

“Yours unalterably,

“WILLIAM.”

This letter and favour, the gallant Admiral acknowledged in language that did honour to his sensibility and modesty.

“Queen, off Carthage, December 12, 1805.

“SIR,

“I cannot express how great my gratitude to your Royal Highness is, for the high honour which you have done me by your letter, congratulating me on the success of his Majesty’s fleet against his enemies.

“This instance of condescension, and mark of your Royal Highness’s kindness, to one of the most humble, but one of the most faithful of his Majesty’s servants, is deeply engraved in my heart. I shall ever consider it as a great happiness to have merited your Royal Highness’s approbation, of which the sword which you have presented to me is a testimony so highly honourable to me; for which I beg your Royal Highness will accept my best thanks, and the assurance, that whenever his Majesty’s service demands it, I will endeavour to use it in support of our country’s honour, and to the advancement of His Majesty’s glory.

“The loss which your Royal Highness and myself have sustained in the death of Lord Nelson, can only be estimated by those who had the happiness of sharing his friendship. He

had all the qualities that adorn the human heart, and a head which, by its quickness of perception, and depth of penetration, qualified him for the highest offices of his profession. But why am I making these observations to your Royal Highness, who knew him? Because I cannot speak of him, but to do him honour.

“Your Royal Highness desires to know the particular circumstances of his death. I have seen Captain Hardy but for a few minutes since, and understood from him, that at the time the Victory was very closely engaged in rather a crowd of ships, and that when Lord Nelson was commending some ship that was conducted much to his satisfaction, a musket ball struck him on the left breast. Captain Hardy took hold of him to support him, when he smiled, and said, “Hardy, I believe they have done for me at last.” He was carried below; and when the ship was disengaged from the crowd, he sent an officer to inform me that he was wounded. I asked the officer, if the wound was dangerous. He hesitated; then said, he hoped it was not; but I saw the fate of my friend in his eye, for his look told what his tongue could not utter. About an hour after, when the action was over, Captain Hardy brought me the melancholy account of his death. He inquired frequently how the battle went, and expressed joy when the enemy were striking; in his last moment shewing an anxiety for the glory of his country, though regardless of what related to his own person.

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your Royal Highness’s

“Most obedient and most humble Servant,

“E. COLLINGWOOD.”

At the solemn funeral of the great hero, on the 9th of January, 1806, the Duke of Clarence, with his brothers, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, attended, and formed part of the procession from the Admiralty to St. Paul’s Cathedral.

On the 28th of the same month, Lord Hawkesbury moved the thanks of the upper house of Parliament to the Admirals Collingwood, Lord Northesk, and Sir Richard Strachan, with the captains and other officers, seamen, and marines, of the fleet.

Upon this occasion, the Duke of Clarence, in seconding the motion, entered into a review of the professional life of Lord Nelson. His Royal Highness stated, that one of the most excellent features in the character of his late noble and gallant friend, was that devout sense of religion, which he preserved under every circumstance to the last moment of his glorious career. As a proof of what he asserted, he would, with the permission of the house, read the last lines which Lord Nelson had written. So composed was he, that when the fleet was advancing to force the enemy's line, and before the firing began, which, in fact, did not commence till the line had been broken, he sat down, and wrote what he should now read. The illustrious Duke then read a prayer, the first sentence of which was to the following purport :—"May Almighty God, whom I worship with all my heart, for the sake of my country and of all Europe, grant me a glorious victory." The last sentence expressed his determination "not to forget the duties of humanity," and the prayer concluded with "Amen, Amen, Amen."

The death of Lord Nelson was followed by that of Mr. Pitt, which event happened at his villa, on Putney Heath, in the morning of Thursday, the 23d of January, 1806. His health had been for some time in a declining state; but the illness which terminated fatally, originated in extreme anxiety, and intense application to business. His whole nervous system was so deranged, that, for

weeks together, he could not sleep, and this privation of rest led to a general breaking up of the constitution.

The day before he died, he received the sacrament, from the hands of his venerable tutor and friend, the Bishop of Lincoln, in the most composed and resigned state of mind. He repeatedly expressed to the prelate, who sat up with him all night, the sense he had of his own unworthiness, and a firm reliance on the mercy of God, through the merits of Christ. His last words were, "Oh, my country !"

On the 27th, the House of Commons voted, that the funeral of the deceased minister should be at the public expense, and that a monument should be erected to his memory, in the collegiate church of Westminster.

This motion, however, was not carried without opposition ; and among its opponents, to the astonishment of the world, was Mr. Windham, the very man who had been his active coadjutor throughout the whole of the late war. Mr. Ryder did no more than justice, in saying, "that the Right Honourable Gentleman had evinced an heroic disregard of every natural, and every moral feeling ; and that his conduct would, no doubt, serve as a warning to his new political associates."

This motion was succeeded by another, for the grant of forty-thousand pounds to discharge the debts of Mr. Pitt. This proposition passed unanimously. Mr. Fox, in supporting it, said, Mr. Pitt was minister twenty years, and, excepting the Cinque Ports, he never heard of any thing he had obtained of an advantageous nature. He considered him as a person eminently disinterested, and that this was the appropriate reward for disinterestedness.

The death of this great statesman was the dissolution of the administration ? but, previous to the formation of

a new cabinet, Lord Hawkesbury secured to himself the wardenship of the Cinque Ports, well knowing, that the party now coming into power, would set aside any pretensions he might have to the appointment.

On the 3d of February all the political arrangements were settled—Lord Grenville being at the head of the board of treasury; Charles Fox, foreign secretary; Thomas Erskine, lord chancellor; Lord Howick, first lord of the admiralty; and the other offices filled by their friends.

The attachment of the Duke of Clarence to the new ministry appeared conspicuously on the 10th of February, when, with the Duke of Bedford and Lord Howick, he accompanied Lord Erskine to the Court of Chancery, where that nobleman took the oaths, and his seat on the bench.

At this time the whole Continent, with the exception of Russia, lay prostrate at the feet of Napoleon, who, after the battle of Austerlitz on the 2nd of December, and the treaty of Presburg, which immediately succeeded it, was enabled to assume a higher tone than ever, in addressing his servile senate. On the 5th of March, he ascended the throne in majestic pomp, and said, “Since your last meeting, the greater part of Europe has been united with England; but my armies never ceased to conquer, until I ordered them to cease to combat. I have avenged the cause of the weak states which were oppressed by the strong. My allies have acquired increased power and consideration. My enemies are subdued and abashed. The House of Naples has for ever lost its crown. The whole Peninsula of Italy belongs to the Great Empire. I, as the Chief of that Empire, am the guarantee of the sovereigns and constitutions by which its several parts are governed.”

After dilating in this strain upon his personal achievements, and the glory of France, the conqueror deigned to acknowledge that one circumstance of an untoward nature had occurred. In consequence of a battle, imprudently commenced, said he, "we have lost some ships by the storms." Having thus noticed the defeat of his fleet, Napoleon added, "I desire peace with England. Not a moment's delay shall it experience on my part. I shall be ready always to conclude it, taking for its basis the treaty of Amiens."

This declaration occasioned a correspondence between Mr. Fox and Talleyrand, the result of which was, the appointment of Lord Yarmouth, now Marquis of Hertford, to the office of negociator; but he was soon succeeded by the Earl of Lauderdale.

On the 12th of June this year, the trial of Lord Melville, by impeachment, before the peers in Westminster Hall, terminated in an acquittal of all the charges. The Prince of Wales took no part in the proceedings; and his brothers were divided. The Dukes of Clarence, Kent, and Sussex, voted Lord Melville guilty of several of the charges; while the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Cambridge, pronounced him not guilty, on the whole matter of accusation.

In this session of Parliament, which terminated on the 23d of July, the incomes of the junior branches of the Royal Family were increased; that of the Duke of Clarence and his younger brothers was raised from twelve to eighteen thousand pounds a year.

During the summer, public curiosity was strongly excited, but not gratified, by an inquiry, instituted at the command of the King, into the conduct of the Princess of Wales, on charges of the most serious nature, alleged

against her by Sir John and Lady Douglas. The investigation was conducted by the noble commissioners, Erskine, Grenville, Spencer, and Ellenborough, with great secrecy; nor were the particulars made public for some years. The result was, however, favourable to the Princess, and there the matter ended for the present. While the examination was going on, the Prince and the Duke of Clarence made a tour through the northern part of England. On Thursday, the 29th of September, the royal brothers visited Liverpool, where they were sumptuously entertained by the Corporation, who presented the Prince with the freedom of the borough in a gold box, which His Royal Highness graciously accepted. The Duke of Clarence had before received that mark of respect; and his portrait at full length, for which he was pleased to sit to Mr., since Sir Martin Shee, at the request of the same body, adorned the grand hall where the illustrious guests were entertained.

While the two Princes were on this tour, the administration, which had been so lately formed, suffered a severe shock by the death of Mr. Fox, whose remains on the 10th of October, were deposited by the side of his great rival, Mr. Pitt, in Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Fox had for a considerable time laboured under a dropsical complaint, which in the middle of June bore such an alarming appearance, that the physicians declared it necessary he should refrain from business. On the 7th of August he underwent the operation of tapping, when about sixteen quarts of water were extracted. The next day, the Prince of Wales came from Brighton, on purpose to visit his friend, and expressed the satisfaction he felt at finding him much relieved. This, however, as in most cases, was but a temporary respite.

The symptoms returned with accumulated force ; and on the 13th of September, this eminent politician, and accomplished orator, expired.

Three days after the interment of Mr. Fox, his friend Lord Lauderdale arrived in London, to report the fate of his mission to France. It appeared that, in all his interviews with Talleyrand, his lordship had met with nothing but evasion, chicanery, and deceit. During the time of his stay, the French government was busily engaged in preparations for an attack upon Prussia ; and it was not until Napoleon and Talleyrand had left Paris to join the grand army, that the English minister thought of moving. His lordship, indeed, was kindly offered such accommodation as the country-house of General Junot afforded, for the benefit of his health ; but being of opinion that his native air would be more salubrious, he demanded his passports, which, after much delay, and not a little insult, he obtained.

Thus ended a negociation, which, from the very beginning, was inauspicious, and soon rendered England ridiculous in the eyes of all Europe. It, however, completely answered the purpose of Napoleon, whose designs began to be developed, in a treaty which detached Bavaria, Wirtemberg, and several other minor states, from their connexion with the German empire, and, by the name of the Confederation of the Rhine, placed them under the protection of France. The next step adopted for the dissolution of the Germanic constitution, was the degradation of the Emperor Francis, who, on the 7th of August, became the herald of his own disgrace, by publishing an explicit renunciation of the Imperial crown, and taking in exchange the inferior title of Emperor of Austria.

Alarmed by these strides of gigantic ambition, the king of Prussia now changed his conduct, and renewed his connection with Britain. But it was too late: the French, with Napoleon at their head, entered Prussia on the 8th of October, and, on the 14th, the battle of Jena decided the fate of that country. The king retreated from the field with his guards, and the Duke of Brunswick was mortally wounded. From this time no effectual resistance was made by the Prussians; and, on the 27th, Victor made his grand entry into Berlin. In the proclamation which Napoleon issued from Potsdam, he announced his intention to march immediately against the Russians, who would, he said, if they advanced, "find another Austerlitz in Prussia." He concluded his philippic with this emphatic comment on the recent negotiation with the British government: "We will be no longer the sport of a treacherous peace. And we will not lay down our arms, till we have obliged the English, those eternal enemies of our nation, to renounce the scheme of disturbing the Continent, and the tyranny of the seas." This declaration was followed up by the confiscation of all British merchandise at Hamburgh, and other ports and territories occupied by the French armies. Marshal Mortier was entrusted with the execution of this edict, and he fulfilled his commission with a rigour which the inhabitants of Hamburgh have not forgotten to this day.

CHAPTER IV.

A. D. 1807 TO 1809.

SUCH was the gloomy state of affairs when Parliament re-assembled on the 2nd of January, 1807. Lord Grenville in the Upper, and Lord Howick in the Lower House, moved an address to the King; the tenor of which was, to express their approbation of his Majesty's efforts to restore the blessing of peace. Long debates ensued, but the address was carried without opposition.

On the same day, Lord Grenville introduced a bill for the abolition of the slave trade, which, after a few observations from the Duke of Clarence, was read the first time, and ordered to be printed.

On the 5th of February, the order of the day for the second reading of the bill having been read, Lord Grenville repeated all his former arguments against this nefarious traffic, and concluded his speech with a brilliant encomium upon the talents, virtue, and perseverance of Mr. Wilberforce, to whom millions yet unborn, he said, would be indebted for liberty and happiness.

The Duke of Clarence rose, and said, he was glad to find that the negroes now employed in the laborious business of our colonial establishments, were not to be included in the present arrangements, but were to be permitted to fulfil their important duties. He was pleased also to find it admitted, that those at present concerned in the African trade, had engaged in their commercial pursuits under

the sanction of Parliament. Much had been misapprehended on the nature and circumstances of the traffic itself, by persons who had no local knowledge on the subject. With respect to himself, the habits of his life had given him opportunities of knowing the facts from the best authorities ; and he had visited every one of the islands, where he had conversed with some of the most skilful and experienced persons, on their culture, produce, climate, and population.

It was a little singular, that, after exhibiting a style of declamatory accusation against the planters, not unusual on this subject, the noble lord (Grenville) had adduced but one or two insulated examples of cruelty towards the negroes, to support all his broad and confident assertions. The truth was, that human nature was much the same in every country ; and that the planters, as well as their lordships, had hearts sensible to the calamities of their fellow-beings. It was useless to resign this trade, for other nations would pursue it, if we abandoned it, and under circumstances much less conducive to the comfort of the Africans ; the idea, then, of abolishing the trade, was nugatory and absurd : it might be transferred into worse hands, but it would still be persevered in, with all the distresses, and many more, which the enemies of this commerce were so fond of detailing. The situation of St. Domingo was a warning not to try experiments unnecessarily. The population of that rich country had been reduced, since the insurrection, from 250,000 to 100,000 souls ; and whether the same horrors were to be experienced in the adjacent islands, in consequence of these new projects, was yet a matter of uncertainty. Among the effects of such measures, one must be, that his Majesty, by the multi-

tude of seizures, (for the whole navy of England could not prevent the trade,) would become the greatest slave merchant in the world. Another consequence to be apprehended was, that the maritime strength of the nation would be destroyed ; for on the African trade, more than any other resource, depended the supply of our navy, which had rendered the name of Britain glorious in every part of the world. A third result would be, that the revenues of the state would be largely diminished, from which the supplies for that navy must be drawn.

Many illustrious characters had been mentioned, who had not only approved, but contributed to the establishment of this commerce : from the circle of his own immediate acquaintance, he could add several others, who concurred in the same sentiment, and who were an ornament to their profession. Among these, he might mention a gallant admiral, with whom he was allied in the closest intimacy, Lord Nelson, who had received, on numerous occasions, the enthusiastic applause of a grateful people. Should the bill pass, he had no doubt that the supporters of it would soon regret their precipitation ; and if the present ministers continued so long in office, he entertained no doubt, that, in three or four years, they would retrace their steps, and apply to parliament that the trade might be again resumed. But be the event what it would in other respects, to his mind it was perfectly clear, that, without this trade, the West Indies must be lost to Britain ; and without the West Indies, not only the dignity and prosperity of the nation was gone, but its very existence as an independent empire would cease.

The Duke of Gloucester took up the argument in opposition to his royal cousin, and declared, that he was ready to meet the question either on the ground of the

inhumanity, or the expediency, of the commerce. His Highness detailed some shocking instances of the cruelty of the slave-dealers ; and observed, that the population had been retarded in the West Indies by the severity with which the negroes were treated.

Earl St. Vincent, on the other hand, said, that, from his own experience, he was enabled to state, that the West India islands formed a paradise itself to the negroes, in comparison with their native country. Knowing this, he was surprised at the proposition before the house ; and, considering the high character and intelligence of the noble mover, he declared that he could account in no other way for his bringing it forward, than by supposing some Obi-man had cast his spell upon him.

The Earl of Northesk replied to his brother admiral, and observed, that if humane treatment were practised towards the negroes, he was certain, from his knowledge of the colonies, that a sufficient supply would be kept up for every purpose of cultivation ; but such treatment, the good effects of which he had witnessed in some islands, was not, he much feared, likely to become general, unless the planters were precluded from obtaining further supplies by importation. As to what Earl St. Vincent had said, with respect to the celestial comforts of the slaves, he was disposed to think, that, however long the noble lord might have been stationed in the West Indies, he had seen very little of the interior of the colonies, or he would not have made the assertion.

After several other peers had delivered their sentiments, the motion for the second reading was carried, by a majority of sixty-four ; and on the 10th, the bill was sent down to the Commons ; where it finally passed on the 22d of March, and on the 25th it received the royal assent.

With the completion of that important measure, the existence of the administration terminated.

This extraordinary occurrence originated in a dislike expressed by the King to a bill introduced by Lord Howick into the House of Commons, on the 5th of March, "for allowing all persons professing the Roman Catholic religion to serve his Majesty in the army and navy, and to enjoy the free exercise of that religion."

The sovereign, at first, was misled into the belief that the bill now proposed, was nothing more than the extension of an act passed in the Irish Parliament, in the year 1793, by which Catholic officers there, were allowed the exercise of their religion, without any test. Now, as in the event of such officers being ordered to England with their regiments, the Irish act would not protect them, it seemed advisable that the same should be made effectual in their behalf, but in their behalf only. Unfortunately, however, the present bill was so constructed, that all persons serving in the navy and army would have been released from the former oaths and tests. As soon as the King perceived this, he expressed his disapprobation in strong terms, and the bill was withdrawn.

To prevent the possible recurrence of such a measure, his Majesty demanded a pledge from ministers, that they would not renew the Catholic question in any shape. This pledge they refused to give, and their ejection from office immediately followed. Three of the number were adverse to the conduct of their colleagues in this business; Lord Sidmouth, Lord Erskine, and Mr. Sheridan: but they were displaced with the rest. To the two latter, the loss was great; for their circumstances were such, that they could ill afford to relinquish the emoluments of office. Sheridan avenged himself by a bitter sarcasm

on his associates, for their temerity in bringing forward the Catholic question.

“Why did they not put it off, as Fox did?” said he, “I have heard of men running their heads against a wall; but this is the first time I ever heard of men building a wall, and squaring and clamping it, for the express purpose of knocking out their brains against it.”

Lord Erskine, in his place, professed himself in principle an enemy to the Catholic Bill; and, therefore, could not but highly approve of and admire the firmness displayed on the present occasion by his Majesty.

At the head of the new cabinet was placed the Duke of Portland, as first lord of the treasury; Lord Eldon took the great seal; Mr. Perceval became chancellor of the exchequer; Lord Mulgrave was appointed to the admiralty; and Mr. Canning, Lord Hawkesbury, and Lord Castlereagh, were the new secretaries of state.

This change was succeeded by a general election, which was very vigorously contested in every part of the kingdom; and, perhaps, upon no former occasion, except the dissolution of the coalition ministry, were the feelings so strongly excited, as they now were, by the cry of “No Popery.”

The new parliament assembled on the 22d of June, when a trial of strength took place between the late ministers and their successors, on amendments to the address. But the result was a triumph to the present cabinet; the majorities in both houses being so great, as to establish their solidity upon a firm basis. It does not appear that the Duke of Clarence took any part in these transactions, nor does his name occur in the debates that arose out of them.

On the 14th of August, this short parliamentary ses-

sion closed, when the Chancellor, in the name of the King, said, "His Majesty trusts that his people will always be ready to support him in every measure which may be necessary to defeat the designs of his enemies against the independence of his dominions; and to maintain against any undue pretensions, and against any hostile confederacy, those just rights, which his Majesty is always desirous to exercise with temper and moderation; but which, as essential to the honour of his crown, and the true interests of his people, he is determined never to surrender."

This was an allusion to the combination of the northern powers against Great Britain, in consequence of the defeat of the Russians in the battle of Friedland. The conference at Tilsit, which followed that event, compelled the Emperor Alexander and Frederick-William to oppose their old and faithful ally; and accordingly all the ports in the north were shut against British commerce.

Under these circumstances, another attack upon Copenhagen became expedient, as a measure of precaution and self-defence. On the 18th of July, a fleet, under the command of Admiral Gambier, sailed from Yarmouth roads; and on the 26th, another squadron, under Admiral Essington, with one hundred transports, containing fifteen thousand troops, followed. Meanwhile, Mr. Jackson was sent to the court of Denmark, for the purpose of effecting, by an amicable negotiation, that which otherwise must be done by force. The condition upon which the minister had orders to insist, was, the delivery of the Danish fleet to the British admiral, on an assurance that the whole should be restored at the conclusion of the war with France. The proposition was rejected, a bombardment ensued, and a considerable part of the city

was reduced to ashes. After this waste of property and life, the governor, to prevent total destruction, desired an armistice, to afford time for a capitulation. The articles were soon settled; and eighteen ships of the line, fifteen frigates, with a large quantity of naval stores, were brought to England. In consequence of this breach of neutrality, the Emperor Alexander issued a declaration, in which he engaged never to renew his alliance with Britain till satisfaction should be made to Denmark.

Two circumstances connected with this expedition merit notice, especially as they have not been related in any of the published narratives of the transactions at Copenhagen.

In the year 1785, the Crown Prince of Denmark received from his uncle, the King of England, a sloop of war, as a present. When our fleet carried away the Danish navy, and cleared the arsenal, they left this sloop as a mark of respect. The prince, however, on his return to the capital, ordered that the vessel should be manned by sixteen British sailors, who had been made prisoners, furnished with the necessary provisions, and then sent back to England.

When the prince fled from Copenhagen in disguise, he was taken by the squadron of Sir Richard Keats, in his passage across the Belt. He was immediately recognized; but our people, affecting not to know him, generously permitted him to continue his route.

The generality of the people of Denmark were much displeased with the prince, for provoking hostilities; and refusing to give up a fleet, which he could not defend, and which, besides, was an absolute burden, instead of a benefit, to the nation. One of the most distressing calamities in the bombardment of Copenhagen, happened

to the family of Professor Hornemann. A bomb forced its way into his house, and dreadfully mutilated his three daughters. One had both her legs broken, and the others were maimed in nearly a similar manner.

•The conduct of the crown prince to the governor Pieman was very severe and ungrateful. This officer begged, on account of his age, to decline the station to which he was now specially appointed, but no excuse would be admitted. After fulfilling his orders, and defending the city as long as he could, the count signed a treaty, to save the rest of Copenhagen from being reduced to ashes. For this he was thrown into prison, brought to trial, and disgraced.

Napoleon now developed his designs upon the south of Europe. He began with demanding of the court of Lisbon, that it should break off all connexion with Great Britain, imprison the English in Portugal, and confiscate their property. Without waiting for a reply, he seized all the Portuguese vessels that were in the French ports. This was followed by the march of an army into Portugal, upon which the Prince Regent, and the whole royal family of the house of Braganza, embarked in a squadron of English ships, commanded by Sir Sidney Smith, and accompanied by the Portuguese fleet, sailed for Rio de Janeiro.

Such was the state of Britain, when the Duke of Clarence entered upon the forty-second year of his age. Hitherto, his Royal Highness had avoided any thing like public display; but his birth-day was now celebrated at Bushy Park, with a fete that attracted very general notice and observation.

But we shall pass over these ephemeral scenes of festivity, to notice the arrival in England of two fugitives;

now become the only place of refuge for depressed and persecuted royalty.

On Tuesday, the 7th of July, the Duchess of Brunswick, having lost her husband, and witnessed the ruin of her country, landed from the Clyde frigate at Gravesend, and proceeded to Montagu House, the residence of the Princess of Wales on Blackheath. On Thursday, the King went to visit his sister; and the interview, under such melancholy circumstances, after a separation of more than forty years, was exceedingly affecting.

The corporation of London soon after waited in state upon the venerable duchess, with an address of congratulation, which concluded with these words. "Deeply impressed, Madam, as we are, by the extraordinary events which have occasioned your return, we trust that your Royal and Serene Highness will permit us to express the sincere joy we feel at your restoration to the shores of a free and loyal people; not more attached to a good and venerable King by duty to his supreme and august station, than by affection to his sacred person and family."

To this address her Royal Highness replied briefly, by an expression of her grateful thanks and satisfaction.

By the King's direction, a house was taken and fitted up in Hanover Square for his sister, who preferred a private establishment of her own, upon an economical scale, to a residence in either of the royal mansions. In the following year, parliament voted a grant of ten thousand a year to the Duchess of Brunswick.

On the 3d of November, Louis XVIII., under the title of the Count de Lille, landed at Yarmouth, from a Swedish frigate. This unfortunate descendant of an illustrious line of monarchs, after being driven from one part of Europe to another, sought refuge in Sweden; but having

reason to fear that his person was far from being safe, even in that distant region, he resolved upon coming to England. Here his reception was such as might be expected from the national character. At landing he was welcomed by the magistracy, and all the naval and military officers on the station. Here, also, he had not only the pleasure of meeting his brother, commonly styled Monsieur, (from whom he had been separated fourteen years,) but the Prince of Condé, the Duke of Bourbon, and the Duke of Orleans; all of whom had come thither on Sunday from Castle Howard, where they had been on a visit to the Earl of Carlisle. From Yarmouth, the king and his suite proceeded the next day to a seat of the Marquis of Buckingham in Essex.

The following instance of genuine feeling, in the character of the British seamen, deserves here to be recorded. When Louis quitted the frigate, he was rowed on shore in the barge of Admiral Douglas. As a mark of attention, the king left a purse of fifteen guineas, to be given to the boat's crew, to drink his health. When the money was offered to the men, they all refused to take it; but sent the admiral a letter, *verbatim et literatim*, as follows:

Majestic, 6th day of Nov. 1807.

“ Please your Honour.

“ We holded a talk about that there 15£ that were sent us, and we hope no offence, your honour. We dont like to take it, because as how we knows fast enuff, that it was the true king of France that went with your honour in the boat, and that he and our noble King, God bless 'em both, and give every one his right, is good friends now; and besides that, your honour gived order long ago, not to take no money from nobody, and we never did take none: and Mr. Leneve, that steered your honour and that there king, says he wont have no hand in it, and so

does Andrew Young, the proper coxen ; and we hopes no offence, so we, one and all, begs not to take it at all. So no more at present from your honour's dutiful servants,

“ Andrew Young, coxen—James Mann—Lewis Bryan—James Lord—James Hood—W. Edmund—James Holshan—Thomas Leneve—T. Simmers—Thomas Kerane—Simon Duff—W. Fairclough—John Churchill—T. Lawrence—Jacob Gabriel—William Muzzey.”

This year closed with a circumstance, which paralyzed the mercantile world. On the 22d of December, the American Congress passed what was called a non-intercourse act. In order to avoid the losses, which could not fail to be the consequence of the measures adopted by France and England, to the injury of commerce, the government of the United States took the extraordinary step of laying an embargo upon all American vessels, and prohibiting them from leaving any of their ports ; while, at the same time, ships belonging to other nations were commanded to depart at a short notice, whether laden or not.

Thus Britain, against whom this decree was principally levelled, might be truly said to reign empress of the ocean without a shore.

On the 21st of January, 1808, the parliament was opened by commission, and the King's speech read by the Lord Chancellor. It was very long, and chiefly consisted of a recapitulation of the events that had occurred since the prorogation. It stated, that his Majesty had been apprised of the enemy's intention, after the treaty of Tilsit, to force the neutral powers into co-operation against this country, and to employ the whole naval force of Europe for that purpose, but specifically the fleets of Portugal and Denmark. On this ground, the proceed-

ings relative to those two powers were justified. The speech went on to notice the defection of his Majesty's late allies, Russia, Austria, and Prussia. After glancing at the pretensions made by the United States, as inconsistent with the maritime rights of Great Britain, the speech concluded with asserting, that the sole object of this purely defensive war, was, the attainment of a secure and honourable peace, but which could only be negotiated upon a footing of perfect equality.

In the debates upon the address, the ground taken by the opposition, principally related to the attack upon Denmark, concerning which, some thought, the documentary evidence was unsatisfactory; others considered the measure as a violation of all public right; while ministers defended it on the plea of necessity.

Among the other subjects that came under discussion this session, and in which the public at large took a lively interest, was the bill introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Bankes, chairman of the committee of finance, for the abolition of grants of places in reversion. It was merely the renewal of what had passed through the commons the preceding year, and which had been prevented from going to the other house by the prorogation. The motion now occasioned some debate, but the bill went through all the necessary forms, and was carried to the lords, where it experienced a vigorous opposition; and, on the motion for the third reading, it was thrown out by a majority of eighty voices; among whom were those of the Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Cambridge. Neither of the other royal peers spoke or voted on the question.

Instead of being discouraged by the fate of his bill, Mr. Bankes brought forward another immediately, of a

similar nature, but modified and limited in its duration. By this it was proposed to restrict the crown from granting offices in reversion for one year after the passing of the act, and from the close of that period again to the end of six weeks after the opening of the ensuing session of parliament. The bill in this altered state was more favourably received than the former, and ultimately obtained the royal assent.

The appropriation of the droits of admiralty next came under discussion, at the instance of Sir Francis Burdett, who observed, it was reported that twenty thousand pounds had been lately granted to the Duke of York, and different sums to other branches of the royal family. If such was the case, the honourable baronet asked on what right the crown seized that property, and made such a disposal of it?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, the droits of admiralty were, by parliamentary authority, made the property of his Majesty; who had bestowed large portions of the fund on the public, besides making provision out of it for the junior members of his family. There could be no objection, however, to an account of the fund since the year 1792.

In the return, it appeared that, during the year 1805, there had been granted to the Duke of Kent, £10,500; to the Duke of Cumberland, £15,000; to the late Duke of Gloucester, £19,500; and to the Princess of Wales, £20,000. In April, 1806, there had been given to the Duke of Clarence, £20,000; to the Duke of Sussex, £20,000; to the Duke of Kent, £10,000, and to the Duke of Cumberland, £5,000: which, with the grant to the Duke of York, made a total of one hundred and thirty-nine thousand five hundred pounds.

At this period, which was teeming with new and important events, the Duke of Clarence kept up a regular correspondence with Admiral Collingwood, to whom he sent the following letter, dated "Bushy House, May 21, 1808."

"MY DEAR LORD,

"A few days ago, I received your Lordship's letter of the 30th March, which has given me great satisfaction. I am most warmly interested in all your operations, and must be allowed to be a sincere friend and well-wisher to the Navy; for though I have lost one son on board the *Blenheim*, I have just started another with my old friend and shipmate, Keates; and I have another breeding up for the quarter-deck. From the secrecy of those Frenchmen, and their power on the Continent, which are equally known to your Lordship and myself, the affairs of war are more intricate than ever: but in your hands the interests of our country are safe. The great object of the enemy must be Sicily; for your Lordship observes, with as much truth as wisdom, that we cannot maintain ourselves in the Mediterranean without that island. I sincerely trust that the next time the French venture out, your Lordship will fall in with them. The event will speak for itself—another *Trafalgar*. All I ask is, that the life of the gallant Admiral may be spared to his grateful country.

"Your Lordship mentions my approbation and friendship. Had not circumstances, which it is unnecessary to dwell upon, prevented my following our profession, I should have been proud to have seen the word 'approbation' in your Lordship's letter; but, situated as I am, I must to your Lordship confess, that I merit not that epithet: but every individual that does his duty well is sure of my friendship. I need not say more to Lord Collingwood, the bosom friend of my ever-to-be-lamented Nelson.

'I took my second son to Deal, which gave me an opportunity of visiting the different ships there. I was very much

pleased with what I saw, and found the navy infinitely improved. This Country cannot pay too much attention to her naval concerns. We are the only barrier to the omnipotence of France : and it is to our Navy alone that we owe this superiority

“ Though I have not yet the advantage of being personally known to your Lordship, I trust I may be occasionally permitted to take up my pen, and that, as events may arise, your Lordship will favour me with a few lines. I know your time is invaluable. For the present, adieu.

“ Believe me most sincerely interested in your Lordship’s welfare, and in the success of those valuable officers and men under your Lordship’s command.

“ I remain ever, my dear Lord,

“ Yours unalterably,

“ WILLIAM.”

The son, of whom his Royal Highness here speaks as having lost, went to India in the *Blenheim*, Admiral Sir Thomas Trowbridge, and served under that excellent officer on that station from 1803 to 1807, when the ship, on her voyage to England, foundered in a gale of wind off Madagascar, and all on board perished.

Lord Collingwood, in a letter to his lady, says, “ I have the kindest letters from the Duke of Clarence. I do not know him personally, but my brother Wilford was intimate with his Royal Highness, and I believe he likes me for Wilford’s sake.”—Captain Wilford Collingwood, here mentioned, commanded the *Rattler* sloop on the Leeward Island station, at the time when Prince William and Nelson were there, to both of whom he rendered great assistance, in detecting and exposing the abuses that had been too long prevalent at Antigua. This valuable officer died of a consumption, April 21, 1787, and was interred with military honours in the island of St. Vin-

cent. How highly he was esteemed by the Prince, and his heroic friend, will appear from Nelson's letter to the surviving brother.

“ Boreas, Nevis, May 3, 1787.

“ MY DEAR COLLINGWOOD,

“ To be the messenger of bad news is my misfortune, but still it is a tribute which friends owe each other. I have lost my friend; you, an affectionate brother: too great a zeal in serving his country hastened his end. The greatest consolation the survivor can receive, is a thorough knowledge of a life spent with honour to himself, and of service to his country; If the tribute of tears be valuable, my friend had it. The esteem he stood in with His Royal Highness was great. His letter to me on his death, is the strongest testimony of it. I send you an extract from it. ‘ Collingwood, poor fellow, is no more. I have cried for him; and most sincerely do I condole with you on his loss. In him His Majesty has lost a faithful servant, and the service a most excellent officer.’ A testimony of regard so honourable, is more to be coveted than any thing this world could have afforded, and must be a balm to his surviving friends.”

But we must now turn to another quarter. An important revolution was on the eve of bursting forth with a tremendous effect, where such an event might least have been expected. The treachery of Napoleon, in drawing the royal family of Spain out of the kingdom, and nominating his brother Joseph to the throne, produced a ferment at Madrid, which spread like lightning through all the provinces. The intruding image of Napoleon made his joyous entry into the capital on the 13th of July, and on the 27th of the same month he was obliged to decamp, for fear of falling into the hands of the patriots, who had defeated the French generals, and compelled

their troops to surrender with all their stores and plunder.

It would have been culpable in the British government to have viewed with indifference this interesting event; but it would have been criminal to have neglected the opportunity it afforded of putting a check to the unjust ambition of the inveterate enemy of Britain. Lord Collingwood left Sicily, and repaired to Cadiz, to assist in capturing the French ships which were in that harbour. That service, however, was accomplished before his arrival by the Spaniards themselves.

The example set by their neighbours was soon followed by the Portuguese; in support of whom Sir Arthur Wellesly landed near Lisbon, and on the 25th of August gained the battle of Roleia, which was the prelude to the more brilliant and decisive one of Vimiera. In these actions, Colonel Frederick Clarence distinguished himself under the great Captain of the age; whose career, glorious as it had begun, was nearly suffering a total eclipse by the unfortunate convention of Cintra. That cloud having passed away, though not without producing some serious disasters, among which, the retreat to Corunna, and the fall of Sir John Moore, may be particularly mentioned, Sir Arthur again appeared on the theatre of war, to gather a succession of laurels.

Meanwhile, another son of the Duke of Clarence was actively employed in the same great cause, on board the *Superb*, bearing the flag of Admiral Keates. That officer being off Jutland, where, and in the adjacent parts, above ten thousand Spanish soldiers were cantoned, formed the design of bringing them off, and restoring them to their native land, that they might assist the patriotic cause. For this purpose, the admiral opened a corre-

spondence with the Marquis della Romana; and so well were the arrangements formed, that the whole Spanish army was embarked, before Marshal Bernadotte, the French commander at Hamburgh, had any suspicion of the matter.

Thus, if the Duke of Clarence, at this critical period, was withheld, contrary to his own wishes, from drawing his sword in active service against the enemy, he appeared in the persons of his four sons—three in the military, and one in the naval service. The eldest, now Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, after remaining a short time at Bushy, on his return from Spain, embarked again for the Peninsula, to fight under the banner of Sir Arthur Wellesley. In one of the numerous actions which took place during the arduous campaign of 1809, his horse was shot, and, being wounded himself in the arm, he became a prisoner. The French chasseur placed his prize behind him, and was galloping off, when the horse fell, and Captain Fitzclarence made his escape.

To this circumstance, probably, Mrs. Jordan alludes in the following passage of a letter, written from Dublin on the 18th of June of that year: "That you would enter into my feelings respecting my dear boy," says she, "I was convinced, when I sent you the extract, as you very rightly supposed I only meant it for your own perusal; for, however gratifying it might be to my feelings to see any testimonial of his good conduct before the world, I have reason to believe that he would be very angry with me, if he thought I had made it public. I only mention this, to shew you that he is an unassuming modest boy; so much so, that we never could get him to speak of the business at Corunna, where he was himself concerned, but the accounts of him from every other quarter were indeed most gratifying."

In another letter, written to the same friend on the 13th of August, from Bushy, she says, "I feel pleasure in writing to you, who so kindly enter into all my feelings. You may easily guess what they were last Monday night, when I heard the account of the battle of Talavera. Five thousand killed ! The Duke at Brighton !—I went to bed, but not to sleep. The Duke set out at five o'clock on the Tuesday, to be the first to relieve me from my misery. I am mentally relieved : but it has torn my nerves to pieces. I have five boys, and must look forward to a life of constant anxiety and suspense."

The Duke of Clarence at this time was painfully affected by the melancholy fate of his friend, Lord Falkland, a captain in the navy ; who, in the month of February, fell in a duel fought at Chalk Farm with Mr. Powell, another acquaintance of His Royal Highness. What rendered this circumstance more distressing was, the reflection that the catastrophe arose from intemperance ; and that the victim of passion had lost his life, not, like his illustrious ancestor, Lucius Lord Falkland, in the service of his King and country, but in the field of false honour. He left a widow, with several young children, the eldest of whom became the son-in-law of his father's royal friend.

Another professional acquaintance of the Duke of Clarence, and one of a very superior character, was lost to the service at the beginning of this year. This was Admiral Lord Gardner, who died at Bath on the first of January, and was buried in the Abbey-church of that city. In Rodney's battle of the 12th of April, Captain Alan Gardner, in the Duke, was the first to break the enemy's line, according to the new system then adopted.

In that of the first of June, 1794, his flag was hoisted, as admiral, in the *Queen* ; and on going into action, the veteran commander desired his ship's company "not to fire till they were near enough to singe the Frenchmen's beards."

The present year was marked by two observable circumstances in the history of the royal family ; one of a painful, and the other of a pleasing description. The exposure in parliament of the Duke of York's imprudence, while it served to gratify the malignant purpose of party, could not but inflict a severe wound on the feelings of the illustrious members, and firmly attached friends, of the House of Brunswick. Whatever opinion the Duke of Clarence might have formed of the transactions which this disgusting inquiry brought to light, he kept his thoughts to himself, both in and out of parliament.

The anniversary of the accession of George the Third to the throne, on the 25th of October, when the venerable monarch entered upon the fiftieth year of his reign, was observed as a jubilee in the metropolis, and throughout the kingdom. The churches, and all places of public worship, were opened ; and in most of them, sermons were preached, appropriate to an event, the like of which had not occurred in the English annals for more than four centuries.

Of the fêtes which were given in celebration of the jubilee, it would be needless now to enter into particulars. They are remembered only as shadows of royal splendour—honourable to the virtues they celebrated, and to the loyal sentiments of those who enjoyed the festivities. But it would be unpardonable to pass unnoticed, the acts of grace which emanated from the

royal benevolence on this memorable day. A general brevet promotion took place in both services. Deserters from the fleet and army received a free pardon. Prisoners on parole, except the French, were permitted to return to their respective countries. All persons confined for debt, at the suit of the crown, were released, unless the parties had been guilty of fraud and violence, especially those who had filled official situations under government. The King also gave two thousand pounds for the liberation of poor debtors in England, one thousand pounds for the same purpose in Scotland, and the like sum to Ireland.

The services of Lord Collingwood during this year were of the utmost importance; though the incessant labour which that great commander underwent, completely ruined his health. In the month of September his Lordship detached part of his fleet on an expedition against the Ionian Islands, four of which were taken by Captain Spranger of the *Warrior*, with some other ships from Malta.

The British admiral was now actively employed in watching the harbour of Toulon, where the French had a large fleet, ready to start with the first opportunity for the relief of their garrison at Barcelona; which was in the greatest distress, being closely blockaded by land and sea.

In the night of the 22d of October, Lord Collingwood, then off St. Sebastian, received information that the French squadron had got out, and that the other ships and transports were on the move. Preparations were immediately made for the reception of the enemy; and, the next morning, signal was given that the French had hauled to the wind, and that the convoy were separating

from the men-of-war, which consisted only of three sail of the line, four frigates, and about twenty transports. Lord Collingwood then ordered Rear Admiral Martin to chase; and, in the pursuit, five of the convoy were destroyed. On the 25th, Admiral Martin fell in with the enemy off the entrance of the Rhone, where he drove ashore two of the line-of-battle ships, which the crews abandoned, after setting them on fire. The *Boreé*, of seventy-four guns, and a frigate, also ran on shore, and were lost. The remainder of the convoy escaped into the bay of Rosas, and took shelter under the castle and batteries, which were very formidable. Notwithstanding this, an attack was resolved upon, and carried into effect, under the direction of Captain Hallowell. That officer, having anchored with his ships about five miles from the castle, detached in the night a number of boats, to bring out, or destroy, the French transports; which desperate service was executed in an admirable style, and, at dawn of day, every ship and vessel was either brought away or burnt.

Of these achievements, Lord Collingwood sent a minute statement, as he did of most of his transactions, to the Duke of Clarence; who acknowledged the receipt of the noble admiral's letter in the following, dated Bushy House, December 9, 1809:

“MY DEAR LORD,

“Your Lordship's agreeable letter of November 3d, from off Cape St. Sebastian, has reached me; and I congratulate you sincerely on the event of Admiral Martin having destroyed the ships of the line, and Captain Hallowell having made an end of the convoy. I am only to lament that the enemy did not give your Lordship and the British fleet an opportunity of doing more; and trust, from the bottom of my heart, that the next

letter which you will have occasion to write, will bring the news of the Toulon squadron being in your Lordship's power. It is odd that the enemy should have selected the 21st of October for sailing! and extraordinary also, that the French should build such fine ships, and handle them so ill. I am glad that your Lordship is satisfied with the conduct of our officers and men on this occasion; and am clearly of opinion, that the lieutenants deserve, and ought, to be promoted. I am for liberal rewards: the gallant Raitt, of course, comes within my ideas of promotion and gratuities. I have ever been, and ever shall be, of opinion, that zeal and bravery ought to be the sole causes of promotion. Your former favourite, the Empress Catherine, knew well this secret of state; and your Lordship's observation is quite correct, that her Imperial Majesty carried the same notions even into her private amusements: "None but the brave," my dear Lord!

"I am glad that Sprainger has done his duty, in taking four out of the seven islands, and hope the remainder will soon fall. The enemy must feel very awkward without them, and cannot fail to be interrupted in attempting the Morea.

"My best wishes attend your Lordship, publicly and privately; and believe me ever, my dear Lord,

"Yours most sincerely,
"WILLIAM."

The gallant William Raitt, here noticed with so much honour, was not long after promoted to the rank of post-captain. He had received, before this, a flattering mark of his great commander's approbation, in a letter dated Ville de Paris, 1st August, 1809. "I have seen with satisfaction," said Lord Collingwood, "the zeal and intrepidity which have distinguished your public services on this and other occasions, and the gallantry with which your enterprises have been executed by the officers

and company of the Scout. They have excited my admiration ; and I shall have much pleasure in transmitting to the Lords of the Admiralty a detail, in which your merits are so conspicuous." Captain Raitt died at Aberdeen, his native place, on the 4th of February, 1816, in the forty-third year of his age.

Lord Collingwood did not long survive this service. He was now completely worn out by excessive fatigue, having scarcely been on shore, and never in England, since the victory of Trafalgar. After repeated applications for a recall, he struck his flag, and was on his return home, when the disorder, with which he had been long afflicted, put an end to his valuable life, on board the *Ville de Paris*, May the 7th, 1810. The sea was in a state of considerable swell ; and when Captain Thomas said he feared that the motion of the vessel disturbed his lordship, the admiral replied, "No, Thomas : I am now in a state in which nothing can disturb me more. I am dying ; and I am sure it must be consolatory to you, and all who love me, to see how comfortably I am coming to my end." His remains were brought to England, and deposited near his illustrious friend, Nelson, in St. Paul's Cathedral ; where a monument, voted by parliament, has been erected to his memory ; and another has been put up at Newcastle by his family. A mourning-ring having been sent by Lady Collingwood to the Duke of Clarence, his Royal Highness was pleased to express his acknowledgment of the token in the following letter to her ladyship :

"MADAM,

"Bushy House, Saturday Night.

"I this morning received a mourning-ring in memory of the deceased Lord Collingwood, which, of course, I owe to your Ladyship's politeness and attention. No one can regret the

melancholy event of the death of his Lordship more sincerely than I do; and I feel great concern in having been prevented from attending the funeral. I was informed that the interment was to be quite private, or else I should have made a point of attending the remains of my departed friend to the grave. No one could have had a more sincere regard for the public character and abilities of Lord Collingwood than myself: indeed, with me it is enough to have been the friend of Nelson, to possess my estimation. The hero of the Nile, who fell at Trafalgar, was a man of a great mind, but self-taught: Lord Collingwood, the old companion in arms of the immortal Nelson, was equally great in judgment and abilities, and had also the advantage of an excellent education.

“Pardon me, Madam, for having said so much on this melancholy occasion; but my feelings as a brother officer, and my admiration of the late Lord Collingwood, have dictated this expression of my sentiments. I will now conclude, and shall place on the same finger, the ring which your Ladyship has sent me, with a gold bust of Lord Nelson. Lord Collingwood’s must ever be prized by me, as coming from his family: the bust of Lord Nelson I received from an unknown hand, on the day the event of his death reached this country. To me the two rings are invaluable; and the sight of them must ever give me sensations of grief and admiration.

“I remain ever, Madam,

“Your Ladyship’s obedient,

“and most humble Servant,

“WILLIAM.”

Cuthbert Collingwood was born of an ancient family at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, September 26, 1750. He went into the navy at the early age of eleven, under the auspices of a near relative, Captain, afterwards Admiral, Brathwaite. In 1775, he became a lieutenant; and, in

1779, was made post-captain. On the termination of the American war, he married Sarah, the daughter of Mr. Blackett, an eminent merchant of Newcastle—by whom he had two daughters; so that the title fell with the noble admiral, the idea of which hurt him very much. Lady Collingwood died September 17, 1819.

The death of the Princess Amelia, on the second of November this year, though an event which had been long expected, was attended with such affecting circumstances, as could not fail to make a deep impression upon the heart of the Duke of Clarence. At the funeral, which took place by torch-light in the evening of the thirteenth, his Royal Highness, who supported the Prince of Wales on the left, as the Duke of York did on the right, was observed during the service to weep much; and so, indeed, did all the family that were present. The scene was so touching, that there was not an individual spectator who did not sympathize with the royal mourners. If any thing could heighten this afflictive distress, it was the knowledge of the state to which the King had been reduced by his last visit to the dying Princess, when she placed a ring, composed of her hair, upon his finger, and said, "Remember me." From that moment, the external world became a blank to the royal mind; and it was found necessary for parliament to supply the seat of government by a regency.

In the debates upon this important subject, the measures which Mr. Pitt and Lord Thurlow pursued in 1788 and the following year, were now closely adopted as a precedent, and, though vigorously opposed, were carried completely into effect.

The most remarkable speech delivered on this occasion, was that of Mr. Stephen, which for its beauty well de-

serves to be partly extracted. After arguing powerfully in favour of the Regency Bill, he said :

“There was one passage in the physicians’ report, which could not fail of giving a melancholy pleasure to all who read it : he meant that in which they unanimously attributed his Majesty’s complaint to the affliction of his mind at the sufferings of a beloved child. This statement carried within itself the consolation of a speedy recovery. When the shock by which the system had suffered died away, when the self-supporting energy of the constitution began to act—then the reinstatement might be expected. But, (said Mr. Stephen,) how amiable is the origin of our present calamity ! Who is there that does not sympathize in the feeling by which it has been caused ? Who does not recall the fine description of the poet, whose images not only fire the imagination, but affect the heart :

‘Some feelings are to mortals given,
With less of earth in them than heaven ;
If there’s a tear—a human tear,
From passion’s drop refined and clear—
A tear so gentle, and so meek,
It would not stain an angel’s cheek,
’Tis that which pious fathers shed
Upon a duteous daughter’s head.’

“Oh, if such be the ecstasies of paternal love, what must be the agonies of its sorrows ! If such be its enjoyments, how acute must be its pangs ! When I see the father’s solicitude for his child, the sorrow with which he heard of her suffering, the anxiety with which he watched her struggles ; when I see these for weeks and months, how he vibrated between hope and fear, his compassion praying for her release, while his love besought from Heaven her recovery—I am almost affected even to tears. I think I see the poor old parent tottering to the bed of his afflicted child—weeping over her agonies—watching over her progress—with an altering voice asking for hope in vain—

with sad lamentations, viewing the last beams of her departing spirit, hearing the last throb of her interrupted respiration, and at length, with feeble hand, receiving the fatal ring—the last token of the premature victim, whose most anxious act was the consolation of her aged father's grief, and the justification of his fondness—her life passed in filial love, and shewed “the ruling passion strong in death.”

Ministers having framed their plan of a regency, upon the basis of that which had only been prevented from becoming alaw by the former recovery of the King, submitted the same to the Prince of Wales; who, in answer, observed, that as no step had yet been taken by parliament, he did not think it consistent with his respect for the two houses, to give any opinion on the subject. Meanwhile, he communicated the plan to all the male branches of his family; and, in consequence, the royal Dukes with one consent drew up a declaration and protest against the form of proceeding; which they addressed to Mr. Perceval, for the information of ministers at large. It stated in substance—“That, understanding from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that it was intended to propose to the two houses the measure of supplying the royal authority by the appointment of a Regency, with certain limitations and restrictions as described; they felt it to be their duty to declare, that it was the unanimous opinion of all the male branches of his Majesty's family, that they could not view this mode of proceeding without alarm; as a regency, so restricted, was inconsistent with the prerogatives which were vested in the royal authority, as much for the security and benefit of the people, as for the strength and dignity of the crown itself; and they, therefore, most solemnly protest against the violation of the principles which placed their Family on the throne.”

This protest was subscribed by the Dukes of York, Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, Sussex, Cambridge, and Gloucester.

Mr. Perceval, in his answer, said, that he had submitted the royal document to the consideration of his Majesty's confidential servants. That however much they had to regret that the course of proceeding which they had adopted on the melancholy occasion of his Majesty's illness, had not the good fortune to receive the approbation of the illustrious persons, the male branches of the royal family, yet they continued to consider it as the only legal and constitutional course, in which they could be supported by precedent; that it was the course prescribed in the years 1788 and 1789, when it had not only been adopted, after long and painful discussions by the two Houses of Parliament, but had received the universal approbation of the country, at large; and they were still further gratified by the reflection, that, on the re-establishment of his Majesty's health, the proceedings in parliament upon that occasion, had received his Majesty's gracious confirmation, and had been even honoured with expressions of his personal gratitude.

By what ingenuity the authors of this protest found out that the bill was in violation of the principles which placed the Royal Family on the throne, cannot be conceived. If parliament had the right to dispose of the crown, it certainly had a right to appoint a restricted regency.

Notwithstanding the opposition thus unaccountably set up against the measure, the Regency Bill passed into a law on the 5th of February, 1811; and, on the day following, the Prince of Wales was sworn into his high office before the privy council.

